

JAPANESE SEALERS BEING WATCHED

Despatch From U. S. Gunboat
Yorktown Says Schooners
Are Near Islands

FOUR CLOSE TO ROOKERIES

Officers of Warship State Fear
That Clash Will Occur
With Brown Hunters

The sealing season in Bering Sea will begin on Saturday next for the small fleet of nine sealing schooners from Victoria. They are more Japanese sealing schooners have been hunting in Bering sea, without regard to restrictions made by Paris tribunals or otherwise, for a month past causing anxiety to the United States warship and revenue cutters engaged in the northern patrol. A despatch from Washington, D.C., under yesterday's date said: "A despatch received by the navy department today from the gunboat Yorktown, on sealing patrol duty about the Pribyloff Islands, Alaska, indicates that while the situation in sealing waters at present is quiet, four Japanese schooners are sealing near the island of St. Paul, off the Pribyloff group. If the sealing vessels should encroach upon the seal preserves a serious clash is possible."

The United States government, following the raid on Seapanel rookery of St. Paul Island, on June 16th, 1906, when the Japanese sealing schooner Myio Maru and Toyoi Maru landed boat's crews and five men were killed by the rookery guards, has despatched revenue cutters earlier than usual to Bering Sea and field guns were also placed on the island to strengthen the guards. Last year a raid took place on a fishing schooner, the Alaskan, where sealers from a Japanese sealing schooner landed and broke into and looted the house of the fishermen. News of a plot for a concerted raid by Japanese sealing schooners on the seal islands reached Washington about the same time as the news of the raid came and the U.S.S. Buffalo was ordered north hurriedly. To prevent a recurrence of these affairs the U.S.S. Yorktown was sent to Bering Sea in June.

Last year the U.S.S. Perry came upon two Japanese sealing schooners hove to off the rookery of St. Paul island with their boats out, going shoreward with the intention of landing sealers. The schooners were seized and taken to Valdes for trial. The schooners were ordered freed from Washington and the sealers charged with attempting to raid were given three months' imprisonment. The lightness of the punishment was looked upon as an inducement to go and raid again at the time. This spring seven Japanese sealing schooners, part of a fleet of 25 from Japanese ports, the most of whom will go to Bering sea, under the British Columbia coast and one vessel, the Nito Maru, came to Victoria to repair chronometers. The sealers on board made no secret of their intention, it is reported, to raid the rookeries of the H.M.S. Albatross, which is to go north to represent the British government in the sealing patrol as arranged under the terms of the Paris Tribunal arrangement now made ridiculous as a result of the coming of the Japanese sealers to Bering Sea. The Japanese sealers were entered into only by the United States and Great Britain and govern only the British sealers from Victoria, who alone remain in the pelagic sealing business on this side of the ocean. While the Japanese sealers come and go at will, sealing with firearms without limit other than the three mile limit, the British sealers are not permitted to engage in Bering Sea until August 1, and then must remain outside a prescribed zone drawn sixty miles about the Pribyloffs, and must hunt with spears only.

LETTERS REDOLENT OF THANKS RECEIVED

Late Athlete's Brothers Learn
of His Demise—Tribute to
Friends of Trainer

In pathetic terms thanking J. A. Virtue and Rev. W. B. Bolton for their kindness to the deceased letters from the relatives of the late Robert Foster, the veteran trainer and athlete, have been received by these gentlemen. As previously stated, the late sportsman was well connected. His brothers are men of position and wealth, who have long been ignorant of the whereabouts of "Bob." They are J. F. Hill, a well known railway man of Chicago, and J. Lawrence Hill, M.D., of Jackson, Mich. When in fulfilling the last requests of the deceased, announcements were mailed to the sister and two surviving brothers, the latter were quick to respond. Not only did their letters bear the expression of their gratitude but they were anxious not only to bear the expenses of the burial, to settle any outstanding indebtedness of their brother, but also to defray the expense of erecting some lasting memorial to the deceased.

Rev. Mr. Bolton in writing them informed them that it was the wish of several of the local athletic organizations to erect some monument to the veteran athlete. In reply they expressed their pleasure but asked to be allowed to contribute and also forwarded money for the collection of all photographs of the deceased or other mementoes, to be presented to the local athletic bodies, the Y.B.A.A., etc. The letters to Mr. Virtue read as follows:

"My Dear Mr. Virtue:—When I wired you from Chicago on July 8 I did not know what you had done all these years for my brother Bob. I saw my sister last Saturday and read your several letters to her. You and Mr. Bolton are 'kings among men.' Your interest and devotion to man with no expectation of return is rare and shows your unselfish Americanism. Mr. Bolton took the trouble to write me a long letter on the 9th inst. I shall preserve it. It contains many

references to your kindness to Bob all these years. I would be glad if I could meet you gentlemen now, to thank you personally. No doubt Mr. Bolton will show you the letter which have written him today. The same letter could properly be addressed to yourself. Strange as it may appear, I miss Bob today more than ever. I had hoped at times that he would return and probably he would have done so had he succeeded in overcoming his weakness.

I can express myself to you in person better than I can by letter but kindly accept my assurances that I appreciate your kindness to Bob, and with very kind regards, believe me, I am, J. F. HILL.

My Dear Friend—I want to thank you for your great kindness to my interest in my brother. I was called to see my sister yesterday, who feels his death very keenly and she showed me your kindly letter to her as to how my brother was getting on, etc. I would like very much to see you in person thank you for what you did for him in his last moments.

God will bless you, I feel sure. You have given the cup of cold water to one of His little ones. Your reward is sure. Will you kindly write me particulars regarding his sickness and death, and a paper if the same contains an obituary notice of the same. I have not heard from my brother in Chicago as to what we shall do with his body. You will be notified by his brother as to what we shall do.

I have never read a more beautiful and kind letter than the one you wrote Mrs. Mackle about him. His death awakens pleasant memories of our boyhood days. He was my happiest days. He was his worst enemy, but his virtues are more than his failings. His heart was always in the right place.

Thanking you once more for your great kindness to him, I am, J. LAWRENCE HILL, M.D.

OAK BAY COUNCIL ON WATER QUESTION

Demand That Civic Fathers
Alleviate Intolerable Condition
in That District

To reach an understanding with the Victoria mavor and council as to what they intend doing toward assuring a adequate water supply for the future, the desire of the Oak Bay councillors, at a meeting of that body, held on Friday afternoon, this matter was discussed at length. As a result a forcible communication addressed to the civic fathers was formulated and carried unanimously.

The consensus of opinion was that the present condition prevailing throughout Oak Bay was almost intolerable, and that it was high time that something definite should be done to ensure a permanent supply sufficient to satisfy the needs of the residents of that section.

However, the stand taken by the council as a whole is outlined in the aforementioned communication to the civic fathers which is appended: **Draft Letter to Council of the City of Victoria.**

Dear Sirs,—We have again to ask that the matters referred to in our letter of 19th June, 1908, be put before the agreement between the two municipalities as to the supply of water, be forthwith dealt with.

After the agreement is executed this municipality has to make immediate arrangements for distribution within its boundaries.

These arrangements must of necessity take into consideration the fact that we have first to determine the scheme of distribution and the cost, thereafter to explain to the ratepayers and obtain their consent and the passage of the necessary by-laws, and finally order the pipes and make financial provisions.

It is, therefore, obviously essential that this municipality should be put in a position to act at the earliest possible date.

There is only contemplated in this agreement, as you know, an arrangement to place the inhabitants of Oak Bay on the same basis as the citizens of Victoria with regard to water supply. There is nothing in it which in any way lessens the burden on the city of Victoria of any new source of supply.

We have kept and wish to continue to keep the extension and improvement of the system entirely separate from any matter contained in the above agreement.

The time has now come when we wish to address you on this matter also. In view of the almost intolerable inadequacy of our present supply, we now request your council to inform us how they intend to provide against the repetition in 1909 of the present year and in future years.

At the same time that we ask you for information we would like to draw your attention to the alteration which has at our request been made that the repetition in 1909 of the present year and in future years.

This reserve formerly was solely in favor of the city of Victoria but has now been altered and extended so as to become a reserve for municipal purposes generally and so as to give to this municipality rights similar to those of the city of Victoria in the water of these districts.

In these circumstances, we would like to know what steps, if any, you would propose to take in connection with the utilization of the waters contained in this reserve.

This council, on this municipality respectfully request the council of the city of Victoria to immediately give the proper statutory notice requiring the Esquimalt Water Works company to supply water to the city of Victoria under the conditions imposed on them by statute, and at the same time to offer the said company a reasonable price to ensure the necessary pipes being laid at the earliest possible date so that the repetition in 1909 of the present year and in future years will be avoided.

This council, in making this request have not knowingly discriminated between rival schemes but have suggested the only remedy which is public that can possibly be in operation in 1909, and that had the remedy not been absolutely obvious to the council would have hesitated to refer to it. Albert S. Floyd.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN FROM THE ORIENT

Big Silk Shipment on C. P. R.
Liner From Japanese
Ports

CHINESE WILL SEEK TRADE

The Officials Sent By Governor
Kwangsi to Make Investi-
gations Debar Here

(From Saturday's Daily)

With 702 passengers and a cargo of 1,870 tons of general freight, including silk and silk goods valued at nearly a million dollars, the R.M.S. Empress of Japan, Capt. Pybus, R.N.R., reached the outer wharf yesterday afternoon from Hongkong, and the usual way ports, leaving Yokohama on July 12. The voyage, the 88th homeward trip of the C.P.R. liner was uneventful. There were 60 saloon passengers, of whom three landed here. These were H. E. Tait, Law Shee Kee, who with Aw Win Ko, his secretary, and Law Kuei Wai, and a suite of five others, have been sent to Canada and the United States by the governor of Kwangsi province of South China to investigate the industrial, commercial and mining resources with a view to the expanding of the trade with South China. His Excellency said to a Colonist reporter that he proposed to take up his quarters at the hotel and would begin his investigations in Victoria, going thence to Vancouver and New Westminster and afterward proceeding to Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and San Francisco before starting on his tour of the coast.

Columbia about a month making investigations. Although he was not connected with the entire project, the formation of steamship lines similar to the subsidized Japanese national steamship companies, such as the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, which is being organized by the 72 guilds at Canton, he believed his investigations would be useful in furtherance of their project, and delegates were to follow him to work on behalf of the steamship company some were probably already on the way. The new Chinese steamship company was a project which was especially in view of the boycott against Japan. The Chinese considered that they were equal in ability to the Japanese, and if Japan could make the steamship lines, now a feature of many ports in the Pacific, profitable for Japan, they considered that Chinese national steamship lines, which could become transients, if necessary, could be equally well undertaken by China. The idea was to first make a line to the coast, and then to extend the services to trans-Pacific lines.

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Timely Sale of Dress Skirts

The Reductions that Women Have Been
Waiting For

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Think of these for bargains! Why, the materials alone of some of them should sell for more. All the styles are new and just what women will require for early Autumn wear. Various designs, some with full flare gores, some trimmed with "strappings" of same material—all fashionable models and honestly worth their regular prices:

VENETIAN CLOTH SKIRTS, navy and black, worth \$4.25, for \$2.15
VENETIAN CLOTH SKIRTS, green, brown, navy and black. Worth \$7.00 for \$3.50
PANAMA CLOTH SKIRTS, navy only, worth \$7.75, for \$3.90
FANCY STRIPED PANAMA CLOTH SKIRTS, navy and black, worth \$8.00 for \$5.25
PANAMA CLOTH SKIRTS, navy, brown and black, worth \$8.00 for \$5.25
Worth \$12.50 for \$7.50
ALEXANDRIA CLOTH SKIRTS, navy and black, worth \$9.50, for \$6.00
VENETIAN CLOTH SKIRTS, extra fine material, navy and black. Worth \$10.50 for \$6.00
BLACK VOILE SKIRTS, a remarkably stylish line, worth \$14.50 for \$8.25
Worth \$16.25 for \$10.50
Worth \$17.25 for \$11.75

Dress Goods and Dress
Making a Specialty
A large and expert
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American Lady Corsets

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