# RUSSIAN MINISTERS DISCUSSING PEACE

## CONVINCED JAPAN WILL NOT MAKE FIRST MOVE

### Should the Czar Decide to Open Negotiations it Will Be Through France.

Gunshu Pass, Manchuria, 18 miles from Tie Pass, March 20.—The Russian guard is now at Sipinghai, 70 miles north of Tie pass. The Japanese are slowly pursuing but are not energetically pressing the rear.

Apparently Field Marshal Oyama is holding his main army at Tie pass.

When the Russians evacuated Tie pass on March 15th, one span of the five-span bridge over the Tehai river, which falls into the Liao river just north of the town, was destroyed by dynamite immediately after the last train had been dispatched northward. As the army moved northward, the bridges of the railroad were disabled and everything in the shape of stores, etc., which could not be taken, was burned.

Some desultory artillery fire was heard on the extreme right as the retreat progressed, but the Japanese appeared to be indecisive. Their pursuit lacked strength in spite of four days' rest at Tie pass, which gave the Russians a chance to reform after the hardships they had suffered, and they took up the march in an orderly fashion, pressing forward, however, at such a rate that many horses and cattle in the transport train were exhausted and left dying by the roadside.

Like an endless serpent, the army trailed over the vast rolling country, moving along during the day over half a dozen roads parallel with the railroad. At night the neighboring hillsides were lighted by dead grass ignited by the camp fires. Thirty miles were covered the first day, Kaiyuan being left behind on March 16th.

The rearguard evacuated Shangtufu, about 18 miles further north, on March 19th.

Dispatch orders report that Colonel Madridoff, in command of an irregular force in the mountains, far eastward, found himself cut off before he got news of the great battle of Mukden, and was compelled to retire northeast, probably making his way towards Kirin.

KOUROPATKIN AGAIN WITH THE ARMY.

Gunshu Pass, March 21.—The correspondent of the Associated Press, after the removal of the Russian headquarters from Tie pass, remained with the rear guard, being some days without telegraphic facilities.

Extensive preparations to carry out the plan of retreat were made by Generals Kouropatkin, Linevitch, Bildeling and Kaulbars, and were successfully carried out.

On March 19th Kouropatkin, considering that the army was safe, departed for Harbin, but having subsequently decided to remain as commander of the first army reached here to-day, receiving a great ovation at the railroad station and acknowledging the cheering by a short speech, in which he expressed the hope that the army would soon be able to retrieve its reverse. It is too early to determine the effect of the change in the supreme command, but private soldiers have great confidence in the venerable Linevitch, whose task is believed to be monumental.

The reorganization affected at Tie pass after the retreat from Mukden incontestably marked the end of the second stage of the war. Gunshu pass, which has a large railroad station and red cross settlement with army facilities, is now almost overflowing. Troops are arriving daily, the advance divisions are continuing their march northward, while some fresh troops from European Russia are coming south to relieve the worn out rearguard.

The bomming of guns on the right flank was heard all morning.

St. Petersburg, March 23, 12.35 a.m.—The party within the government which is urging the Emperor to indicate to the Japanese Russia's willingness to end the war if a reasonable basis can be reached, has been greatly encouraged the last few days, and an actual pacific proposal may be just ahead.

The subject has occupied much of the attention of the conferences at Tsarskoe-Selo. Certain Grand Dukes, supported by General Sakharoff, the minister of war, and Admiral Vellon, the head of the admiralty, and what is known as the war party, are still bitterly opposed to the idea of peace under present circumstances, but, with the exception of war and marine, the Emperor's ministers, backed by M. Witte, solidly favor this course, and the convincing arguments they offer are telling. French influences on the same lines are being supported by German opinion.

The rumor noted by the Associated Press last week that Emperor William had tendered his good offices, now seems to be confirmed.

The Associated Press is in a position to assert, however, that if the Czar decides to approach Japan, it will be through France, and that negotiations will be conducted either between M. Delcasse, the French foreign minister; Mr. Detono, the Japanese minister at Paris, or M. Harmand, the French minister to Japan, and Count Batsura, the Japanese premier at Tokio.

The Russian government now feels certain that Japan will not make the first move nor disclose her position until overtures are made authoritatively in the Russian Emperor's name, on the ground that he alone is capable of representing Russia. It is quite possible that Japan's attitude in this regard has been exposed through unofficial attempts to ascertain terms. Japan, it will be remembered, took the same position when Herr Dettring, the German commissioner of customs at Tientsin, without plenary powers, sought to obtain Japan's terms for ending the Chino-Japanese war, declining to treat until Li Hung Chang, accompanied by General John W. Forster, went to Tokio clothed with full powers.

Furthermore, in view of the possibility that no basis of agreement might result even should the Emperor now approach Japan with pacific proposals, it is regarded as entirely likely that hostilities would continue, again following the precedent of the Chino-Japanese war, until negotiations ended. The Chino-Japanese negotiations were begun in December and peace was concluded in the following April. Meanwhile the Japanese made a winter campaign in Manchuria.

The conferences concerning the question whether Russia should now indicate her willingness for peace all agreed, firstly, that preparations to continue the war shall not be relaxed, and incidentally to reject humiliating terms.

It is pointed out, however, that after Japan seriously desires enduring peace on collateral questions, Russia might be ready to offer liberal compensation. For instance, in lieu of direct indemnity, she might turn over to Japan the proceeds of the sale of all the rights and property of Port Arthur and Dalny, and the Chinese Eastern railway, and liberally pay for the maintenance of Russian prisoners in Japan, and while refusing to cede Saghalin, might grant rights to the fisheries there, or even relinquish all the seal fisheries on the Commander islands.

It is possible also that satisfactory arrangements might be made regarding Russian naval strength in Eastern waters for a period of years.

LITTLE KNOWN OF JAPANESE MOVEMENTS.

Gunshu Pass, March 22.—The Japanese appear to have given the Russians a temporary respite from pursuit, probably to reform their forces, as they did after the pursuit of the Russians north from Liao Yang. The Russian front runs southeast by northwest, with the Russian right much nearer the railway than the left, while the Japanese position follows a line intersecting Kaiyuan.

The impression here is that the Japanese eastern army is marching on Kirin, while the western army is continuing north between the Mongolian border and the railway, with the main line from Harbin westward its objective; but a period of inactivity is the likeliest outcome of the great exertions of the Japanese on the Shakhe, at Mukden and at Tie pass.

Rumors of a probability that Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaievitch will assume command of the armies, lately current at Mukden, have been revived here the past two days and are continuing in spite of the nomination of Gen. Linevitch.

There is little or nothing known here of the happenings in the outside world, since the army is now cut off from all communication by way of China, but all are intensely interested in the rumored peace discussion.

JAPANESE WERE MOWED DOWN AT MUKDEN.

London, March 23.—The correspondent at Tokio of the Daily Telegraph says:

"An officer here who has returned from Moji, describes the terrible fighting which occurred at the various gates before the capture of Mukden. He says that never in the history of warfare were such formidable field defences faced by infantry attacks as the works protecting Mukden. The ground became covered with hillocks of corpses. Three separate forces attacked the western, southern and eastern gates. The struggle was not decided for many hours. Line after line of Japanese infantry went down. Finally, at 11 p.m., the Russians broke and fled towards the northern gate. They suffered enormous losses outside, however, being caught on all sides like rats in a trap. Altogether 26,000 prisoners were captured at the southern and 5,000 at the western gates."

JAP CAVALRY IN FRONT OF ADVANCE POSTS.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—A dispatch from Gen. Linevitch, dated March 21st, says:

"Yesterday Japanese cavalry detachments operated in front of one of our advance posts. Behind the cavalry were infantry, which halted at the Altanchazete."

MANY VESSELS IN VLADIVOSTOCK HARBOR.

Portland, Ore., March 23.—According to advices received by the Portland & Asiatic Steamship Company from Yokohama, there are at present about 40 blockade runners of various nationalities in Japanese ports which have been captured attempting to enter Russian ports. The crews of the captured vessels are treated well by the Japanese and as rapidly as possible sent to their home ports.

According to blockade runners captured on the return trip from Vladivostok, the harbor there is filled with vessels loaded with provisions and coal. Provisions are said to be cheap, meat being sold for 20 kopeks (10 cents) per pound. The impression exists in Vladivostock that the Japanese intend to attack the place in the immediate future.

Tokio, March 23, noon.—An official report from Imperial army headquarters says:

"Our detachment pursuing the enemy entered Chang Tu on March 21st at 2.30 p.m. A large body of the enemy in disorder is retreating towards the northeast, along the line of the railway.

"A part of the enemy's cavalry has halted at a point within two miles north of Chang Tu."

RUSSIAN SQUADRONS WILL BE UNITED.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—5.30 p.m.—At the admiralty it is strongly intimated that Admiral Rojestvensky will effect a juncture with Admiral Nebogatoff within ten days, and then proceed to meet Admiral Togo.

The third division of the Russian second Pacific squadron, commanded by Rear-Admiral Nebogatoff, left Suda Bay, Island of Crete, yesterday for Port Said.

ANOTHER TURNING MOVEMENT IN PROGRESS.

Gunshu Pass, March 23.—The Japanese are following the Russian rearguard, which is moving north from Santoupu, at the rate of eight and a half miles a day.

On both flanks the Japanese are operating a wide turning movement, but the strength of the flanking forces have not been definitely ascertained.

SIGHTED FLEET OF RUSSIAN WARSHIPS.

Port Louis, Mauritius, March 23.—5.55 p.m.—A steamer from Colombo, Ceylon, which arrived here to-day, reports that during the night of March 16th she met a Russian torpedo boat, which was followed by a squadron of warships some distance behind. The steamer was unable to make out the number or character of the ships.

MAY SUBMIT PACIFIC PROPOSALS TO JAPAN.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—(6 p. m.)—The ministers and supporters of the court who advocate the submission of pascific proposals to Japan, as previously set forth in these dispatches, so as to ascertain whether an honorable basis of peace is possible, believe they have carried the day, and the Associated Press hears on high authority that an actual step is imminent if not already taken.

Gen. Linevitch telegraphs under the date of March 22nd that he had no news of any encounters with the Japanese on March 21st.

HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH INTERVENTION.

London, March 23.—(3.07 p. m.)—The cabinet met this afternoon at the foreign office. According to a news agency the ministers assembled to consider a proposal for the intervention of the powers in the Russo-Japanese war. No confirmation of the report has thus far been obtainable.

4.20 p. m.—It is authoritatively stated that the cabinet meeting to-day had no connection whatever with intervention in the Far Eastern war.

RUSSIAN INTERNAL LOAN HAS BEEN SIGNED.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—The internal loan of $100,000,000 was signed to-day. The price of the issue is 86, and the bonds are redeemable in fifty years.

GOLD RESERVES IN RUSSIAN STATE BANK.

London, March 23.—Referring to statements that have appeared in the London Times reflecting on Russia's financial position, M. Kokovsoff, the Russian finance minister, yesterday telegraphed to the editor of the Times suggesting that he come to St. Petersburg with experts and they would personally inspect and verify the gold reserves in the Russian state bank.

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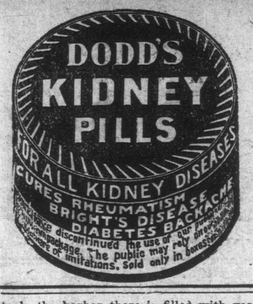




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RIOTERS SHOT.

Police Fired on Peasants Who Were Looting Estate of the Princess of Murat.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—A newspaper in the Caucasus gives details of the burning of the administrative buildings recently in several towns in the Scharopian district and of an agrarian riot on the estate of the Princess of Murat, at Reka, in the Zumdid district, at which the police were obliged to fire on the rioters, many of the latter being wounded.


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# EDUCATION IN NEW PROVINCES

## TORONTO GLOBE ON THE SCHOOL QUESTION

### The District High Court, Canadian Order of Foresters, in Session at Winnipeg.

Toronto, March 21.—The Globe this morning says that it stands for provincial rights in Saskatchewan and Alberta; that these rights were created, and are secured by and under the British North America Act, and the terms and conditions of provincial autonomy must be subject to the provisions of this act. They can have no rights as provinces that are not expressed or implied in the British North America Acts of 1867 to 1886, and can be deprived of no rights to which they are entitled under that constitution. The Globe holds that the new provinces now to be created do not come under the separate school obligation of section 93, clause 1, of the British North America Act, and therefore are free under the constitution exclusively to make laws of their own regarding education.

Mass Meeting.

Toronto, March 22.—A mass meeting of the citizens of Toronto was held in Massey hall last night to protest against the educational clauses of the Autonomy bill, about 2,500 persons being present. The speakers were: Stapleton Caldecott, J. S. Willison, managing director of the Toronto News, formerly editor of the Globe; Leighton McCarthy, M. P., and Dr. Goggin, former superintendent of education in the Northwest.

Seeding.

Winnipeg, March 22.—In the Lethbridge district seeding operations are proceeding apace. The new grass is two inches high on the prairie.

Foresters Meet.

Winnipeg, March 22.—The District High Court, Canadian Order of Foresters, for Western Canada and British Columbia, is in session here. During last year seventeen new courts were instituted in the jurisdiction, and in the present year eight. The total membership is 17,000. The insurance fund surplus amounts to $1,745,781. Mayor Sharpe welcomed the delegates in behalf of the city.

On Strike.

Winnipeg, March 22.—All the job printers in union offices went out at noon to-day, asking for an increase from $18 to $20 weekly. One hundred men are affected.

Ottawa, March 22.—There were crowded galleries in the Commons to-day when Sir Wilfrid Laurier proposed the second reading of the Autonomy bill. He said that on all occasions he had adhered to provincial rights. In this case, as in the first, he was adhering to the terms of the constitution. In 1875 he was a member of the Mackenzie government, and refused to interfere with provincial legislation in New Brunswick because that province had no system of separate schools. In 1889 he supported Sir John A. Macdonald when the latter refused to interfere with the Jesuit Estates Act. In 1896 he opposed Mackenzie Bowell when that gentleman as premier of Canada wanted to force separate schools in Manitoba, and now in 1905 he wanted to stand on the same platform in extending to the minority in Alberta and Saskatchewan, under the constitution, that right to enjoy separate schools, which were given to them in 1875. He stood on the letter of the constitution. It was said that because the Territories were not province at the time of the Union they were not entitled to separate schools.

R. L. Borden, replying to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, said that he would not make the question a party one. Anyone on his side were not bound in any way by what he was to say. He moved an amendment as follows:

That all the words after the word "that," to the end of the quotation, be left out, and the following substituted therefor:

Upon the establishment of a province in the Northwest Territories of Canada, as proposed by bill No. 69, the legislature of such province, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1886, are entitled to and should enjoy full powers of provincial self-government, including power to exclusively make laws in relation to education.

Ottawa, March 21.—The sole topic in parliamentary circles to-day is the new educational clause of the Autonomy Bill, which was presented to parliament last night. So far as can be ascertained, only two Liberals are dissatisfied with the settlement. One is H. Bourassa and the other is L. G. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy is opposed to separate schools in any form and Mr. Bourassa considers that the class of schools granted under the clause, which are the existing schools in the Northwest, are not sufficiently separate. In other words, they are government schools and consequently almost national schools. Several Conservatives will likely vote for the clause. Whatever course the leader of the opposition will take, he is not likely to go with Messrs. Bourassa and McCarthy.

Conservative Caucus.

There was a Conservative caucus this afternoon, when the educational clause was discussed. It was decided to take no stand as a party. Every one can take whatever stand he prefers for the best.

Transcontinental Road.

Wm. Sloan will inquire in the House if the government has any information that the Grand Trunk Pacific has completed the necessary surveys, or any portion thereof, for the building of the new transcontinental line in British Columbia; if so, is it the intention of the government to urge the early construction of this section of the Grand Trunk Pacific?

Prince Arthur of Connaught has determined to become an expert army signaller. He has begun a six weeks' course of special training at Aldershot.

SLAIN BY TROOPS.

Fired on Crowd of Peasants, Killing or Wounding Sixty—Several of Injured Succumb.

Kutno, Russian Poland, March 23.—Ten peasants were killed and fifty were wounded at Lamenta on March 21st as the result of the shooting of the infantry sent to quell disturoances.

Crowd of peasants from Benignowa proceeded to Lamenta to induce the farm laborers to strike, and rioting occurred. The chief of police, with a company of soldiers, went to the scene, and the troops fired two volleys at the peasants, killing ten on the spot and wounding fifty. The latter were brought in carts to the hospital here, where seven men and one woman subsequently died. Eleven others are dying.

Kutno is situated 70 miles west of Warsaw. It has a population of about 10,000.

VICTIMS OF EXPLOSION.

Public Funeral Services Over Remains of Those Who Perished in Brockton Shoe Factory.

Brockton, Mass., March 23.—Public funeral services were to-day held over the remains of those who lost their lives on Monday in the explosion and fire which created the greatest calamity in the history of the city, and one of the greatest New England ever has known. Twenty thousand Brockton inhabitants who work in the great shoe factories of the city joined to-day in public manifestations of sorrow. Sixty factories closed their doors. General business as far as possible was suspended. Street cars did not run during the funeral services, and traffic on the streets was almost entirely stopped. Everywhere flags were at half-mast and buildings draped.

Three public funeral services were arranged for the afternoon—one at the city theatre and another at the Congregational church, and the third at St. Paul's Episcopal church.

# EARLY WORK IN THIS PROVINCE

## WILL BE URGED BY DOMINION GOVERNMENT

### Lieut.-Col. Hesslem Appointed Commander of Bisley Team—Bounty Sought for Vessels.

Ottawa, March 23.—It has been announced that Lieut.-Col. Hesslem, Halifax, has been officially appointed commander, and Major Davidson, 8th Royal Rifles, Montreal, adjutant, of the Bisley team.

Transcontinental Road.

In reply to W. Sloan in the House to-day, Hon. Mr. Emmerson said there was nothing in the department of railways to show the Grand Trunk Pacific had completed the necessary surveys or any portion thereof for building the transcontinental line in British Columbia. It was, however, the intention of the government to urge the early construction of that portion of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

silver.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, replying in the House to Mr. Bickerdike, said there was a large amount of American currency in circulation at par in Canada and he was aware that in the States Canadian silver was taken at a heavy discount. It was not the intention of the government this session to prohibit United States silver, but they hoped to be able to displace that coin in Canada by the substitution of Canadian silver.

Seeking Bounty.

Shipbuilding interests waited on the government to-day and asked for a bounty of $6 a ton for ten years so as to establish the interest in Canada.

A Protest.

The Canadian manufacturers, Dominion, millers and other interests appeared before the railway commission to-day and protested against the rules for demurrage imposed by railway companies, which they said were all against the manufacturers.

Going to Kingston.

On April 6th Lord Grey goes to Kingston to inspect the Royal Military College, and returns to Ottawa on April 8th. On April 24th Lord and Lady Grey go to the horse show at Toronto.

SHIPS BUILT IN ENGLAND.

Baron Hayashi on the Secret of Japan's Success on the Seas.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 22.—The new Japanese battleship Kashima was launched to-day at the Elswick shipbuilding yard of the Armstrong ordnance firm in the presence of Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain. The Kashima's main battery will consist of four 12-inch, four 10-inch and twelve 6-inch guns. She is of 16,400 tons. A sister ship is being built at Barrow-in-Furness. Madame Arakawa, wife of the Japanese consul-general at London, touched the button which released the ship from the stocks.

At the luncheon after the launching, Sir Andrew Noble, chairman of the Armstrong Co., proposed the toast, "The Japanese Empire." He said all the European nations, including Great Britain, might learn a lesson from Japan. Their course prior to the outbreak of the war and their splendid strategy and bravery when compelled to strike, together with the consistently dignified attitude of the government, made them an example for all nations.

Minister Hayashi, who responded, said the Japanese success on the seas was largely due to the fact that more than a dozen of their great warships were built in England. He was sorry the Kashima could not take part in the war, but the war must end some time, and thereafter the powerful vessel would be used to maintain peace in the Far East.

# THE GRANTS MAY BE CONTINUED

## PROBABLE ACTION OF IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT

### Condition Under Which Colonies Where Imperial Troops Are Withdrawn May Receive Money.

London, March 23.—It is understood that the grants of money made by the Imperial government towards the upkeep of the regular troops shall be continued in the case of those colonies where the Imperial troops are to be withdrawn, provided the money is used towards the improvement of the local militia.

OUTLAWS SENTENCED.

Fifteen Men Sent to Prison For Terms Ranging From Life to Five Years.

Amiens, March 23.—The court of assize, after a fortnight's trial, has sentenced fifteen men, among the notorious gang of twenty-six malefactors who operated in France and foreign countries under the leadership of Marius Jacob, to terms of imprisonment ranging from lifelong at hard labor, for the ringleaders, to five years. The others were acquitted.

For a number of years a gang of outlaws, at the head of which was Marius Jacob, a very young man, had been committing robberies in nearly every city of France and foreign countries, murders occasionally resulting from their operations.

Jacob, when arrested, shammed imbecility, but on the exposure of the pretence, assumed an attitude of defiance and bravado, in which he was imitated by others of the gang.

VICTIMS OF TORNADO.

Number of People Have Been Killed in Alabama—Houses Demolished.

Roanoke, Ala., March 22.—Reports have reached here of a disastrous tornado which swept across the southern part of Randolph county late Monday night. Eight or nine lives are known to have been lost, and damage amounting to thousands of dollars was done to property.

Six miles further northwest a number of houses were demolished and three negroes were killed and several injured on the Wilson plantation.

At Lime the post office and a store were wrecked and the daughter of Mr. Lucas killed and her mother seriously injured.

Details of the storm are difficult to obtain on account of the wires being down.

SAILORS IMPRISONED.

Were Captured By a Venezuelan Gunboat—Dutch Authorities Enter Claim.

New York, March 23.—A Willemstadt, Curacoa, dispatch to the Herald explains that Holland's demand against Venezuela grows out of the seizure of several sailors who are Dutch subjects. These men were the crew of a small sailing vessel suspected of smuggling arms for the Venezuelan revolutionists, and their vessel was chased by a Venezuelan gunboat and was overhauled and the crew carried to the mainland and imprisoned. It is asserted that they were in Dutch waters when taken.

News of the affair did not reach the Dutch authorities at Willemstadt till a couple of months ago, when the imprisoned men smuggled out a letter to friends.

EX-MINISTER'S SUICIDE.

Antonin Proust Put Two Bullets Into His Head.

Paris, March 22.—Antonin Proust, minister of fine arts in Cambetta cabinet, died to-day as the result of two shots in the head, self-inflicted. He had long been a victim of melancholy, which is believed to have been intensified recently by difficulties with Rossitta Muai, the celebrated dancer of the opera, with whom he was closely associated. She dined at his apartments on Monday evening. The tragedy followed shortly after her departure.

SERIES OF MISHAPS.

Horta, Azores, March 23.—The Danish steamer Heckla, from Copenhagen for New York, which put in here yesterday with her rudder post broken, grounded on entering the harbor to-day but subsequently was refloated. She is leaking slightly. All her passengers and crew are well.

ENDERBY COUNCIL.

Enderby, B. C., March 22.—The first election for mayor and council of the new city of Enderby took place here today. For mayor, George Bell defeated G. R. Lawes. Messrs. Smith, Kenny, Bradley and Evans were elected aldermen.

WINNIPEG CLEARINGS.

Winnipeg, March 23.—The bank clearings for the week ending to-day were $4,817,833; for the same week in 1904 they amounted to $4,436,754, and in 1903 to $3,617,179.

SOLDIERS DYING.

Warsaw, March 22.—Three of the soldiers wounded last night by the explosion of a bomb thrown from a window into a patrol wagon are reported to be dying. No arrests have been made.

FREE TRADER'S RESOLUTION.

How Mr. Balfour Dealt With Motion Proposed By Mr. Ainsworth.

London, March 22.—A resolution introduced to-night in the House of Commons by John Stirling Ainsworth (free trade Liberal) declaring that: "In the opinion of the House the imposition of a general duty on all manufactured goods imported from abroad not exceeding ten per cent. on an average and varying according to the amount of labor on these goods would be injurious to the commercial interests of the United Kingdom," was carried by 254 to 2.

Mr. Ainsworth's resolution was seconded by Richard Frederick Cavendish (Unionist), who congratulated Mr. Balfour on giving the House an opportunity to express unfettered its views on fiscal propositions. Both Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Cavendish maintained that the vote would show a complete discrediting of Joseph Chamberlain.

Premier Balfour explained that he did not consider the resolution as anything more than an abortive effort on the part of the opposition to embarrass the government over an issue which was not before parliament. He requested his followers not only to follow the policy he had adopted by not debating the resolutions, but also to follow his example by not going into the division lobby.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman attacked the government for its attitude. He asked if the question were of no moment now why it was considered a party question.

Lord Hugh Cecil said he believed that after to-night the country would not take the tariff reformers seriously. The electorate would not rally to those who failed to rally to their own cause. The protectionist movement, he said, was dying; it had only been galvanized into life by the genius of one individual.

It is now stated that Mr. Balfour secured Joseph Chamberlain's assent to his mode of dealing with the Ainsworth motion by representing that any other course would risk the government being defeated.

# GREAT BRITAIN'S NAVAL POLICY

## LORD SELBOURNE ON INCREASED EXPENDITURE

### Is Not Forcing Building, but Actions of Other Powers Must Be Considered.

London, March 22.—In the House of Lords last evening the navy expenditure was discussed on the call of the Liberal leader, Earl Spencer, for papers regarding the naval programme. He said he did not desire to condemn the government, but he wanted an explanation of the plans involving the withdrawal of such a large number of vessels from the list of vessels which could be commissioned for active service, and the reasons for the increased expenditure since 1894-95.

Viscount Goschen justified the vast increase in the last fifteen years. He said the two-power standard was no longer applicable. One thing had been strongly brought out by the Russo-Japanese war, namely, difficulties which might arise with neutrals and the necessity of maintaining an attitude of dignity and power thereto.

Viscount Goschen said he did not think there was any harm in discussing these questions. Chancellor Von Buelow was very candid occasionally in remarks with regard to European politics.

Continuing, Viscount Goschen said when any power with twelve battleships was ready, within 100 miles of the English coast, that was the power which must be considered side by side with preparations to meet any two powers with whom Great Britain might have to deal.

Referring to the loss of Russian warships, Viscount Goschen said it was simply a question of Russia giving orders to great establishments outside of Russia for a renewal of her navy. He did not think the fact that Russia had lost five battleships was a circumstance sufficient to justify the arrest of Great Britain's shipbuilding programme.

The first lord of the admiralty, the Earl of Selborne, said the increased expenditure was due to the fact that the whole naval aspect of the world, east and west, had changed. Within the past thirteen years new navies had sprung up. Russia had recently suffered great losses, but the fleet of Japan had come into existence. America and Germany had evolved navies of equal strength and efficiency.

Great Britain was not forcing the pace in shipbuilding, but was merely taking into account what other nations were doing, and a two and possibly three-power standard must be maintained. The British navy stood close between their manhood and conscription. The navy supported Great Britain's fiscal policy.

Lord Selborne added that the principal explanation of his policy was that for administrative economy. He concluded by pointing out that in the West Indies the whole naval strategical situation had undergone a complete revolution since the Carnarvon commission sat, owing to the birth of the American navy.

At Lord Selborne's request Lord Spencer withdrew his motion for papers.

ARRESTS EXPECTED.

Solving Mystery of Attempt to Poison Mrs. Stanford in San Francisco.

San Francisco, March 22.—The Call says to-day:

"It is announced at police headquarters that within the next 48 hours the mystery surrounding the presence of strychinine poisoning in the mineral water which Mrs. Stanford drank on the evening of January 14th at her California home will have been solved, and possibly one or two arrests made."