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REMEMBER COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

of Anna Rebecca Sied, De-estate, and in the Matter of Administrator's Act.

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TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1904.

\$2.00

PER YEAR, TO OTHER COUNTRIES, POSTAGE PREPAID, PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

STRONG FORTS YET TO BE CAPTURED

NAVAL GUNS WILL COVER INFANTRY ADVANCE

Attack by Japanese Torpedo Boats and Destroyers on Russian Battleship and Transports.

Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army, via, Pusan, Dec. 15.—The Russian battleship Sevastopol, the only Russian warship that escaped destruction, being docked when the Japanese vessels were sunk after the Japanese captured 203-Metre hill, escaped from the dock and harbor last night, and is now anchored under a protecting mountain. Some torpedoes are also outside of the harbor.

The tremendous price of life paid by the Japanese for the capture of 203-Metre hill has been reckoned by the utter destruction of the Russian fleet.

The Japanese fleet will now go into dock.

Every part of the city and harbor of Port Arthur is visible from 203-Metre hill. The streets of the city are deserted, and but few soldiers are seen.

The Japanese are working their advantage on the shores of Pigeon Bay, on the comparative level ground, against the Talyankov, Ischan and Antzean forts. The approaches to the fortifications are easy, but the forts are enormously strong, and the near approach will be all the more difficult as the shipping of trenches will have to be done through frozen ground.

The Japanese are supplying the Chinese troops in the neighborhood of Simantun (about 30 miles west of Mukden) the naval guns mounted on 203-Metre hill will be able to cover the advance of infantry against any of the western forts.

ATTACKED BATTLESHIP DURING SNOWSTORM.

Tokio, Dec. 14, 4 p.m.—The partially damaged torpedo attack on the Sevastopol was made in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, and writes another dispatch from the Japanese.

The entire crews of the torpedo boat destroyers and torpedo boats volunteered for the attack on the only floating Russian battleship at Port Arthur.

Facing a driving snowstorm and heavy seas, the flotilla separated, and, under individual command, was further protected by a screen of destroyers and torpedo boats.

The decks of the boats were coated with ice and the men suffered acutely from the utmost precautions to protect the Sevastopol. They dropped torpedo nets, which succeeded the boats of the warship, but the Sevastopol was further protected by a screen of destroyers and torpedo boats.

At 3:30 o'clock on the morning of December 14 (Wednesday), Commander Otaki, leading a flotilla of torpedo boats and Lieut. Myamoto, leading another flotilla, began an attack against the Sevastopol and the transports. Otaki's flotilla failed to accomplish its purpose owing to a snowstorm. Myamoto's flotilla succeeded in reaching the intended spot by taking advantage of the fact that the enemy's searchlights were turned on Otaki's fleet. In the thick of the snow, while Myamoto's flotilla was searching for the enemy's ships, one torpedo boat became lost from its command.

At 4 o'clock Lieut. Nakamura's torpedo boat independently attacked a military transport, which was destroyed by a torpedo. Myamoto, discharged and exploded a torpedo against the Sevastopol.

Both returned safely, but failed to meet the mission they were ordered to perform. The watch tower guardship reports that the stern of the Sevastopol appeared to have lowered three feet.

MANY CASES OF TYPHOID AMONG TROOPS.

Harbin, Dec. 15.—Gen. Kaubars, commander of the third army, met with a hearty reception on his arrival here today.

There are twenty-two hospitals, each with 150 beds here. There are many cases of typhoid fever.

SEVEN RUSSIANS FROM PORT ARTHUR.

Chefoo, Dec. 16.—Seven Russians in civilian garb, but a military training obvious in their bearing, were today in open sail boat carrying dispatches. They were unwilling to talk, and went immediately to the Russian consulate. A high ranking officer was made a quick passage from Port Arthur.

PREDICTS CHANGES IN CHINA AFTER THE WAR.

Harbin, Nov. 16.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Back and forth along the railway, now that there is not much in the way of active fighting, the Russian headquarters at Mukden are splendidly constructed, and are even furnished with bathtubs. The stories printed abroad, picturing the army as cold and hungry, are without foundation.

MORE DETAILS OF ADMIRALTY SCHEMES

ONE SMALL VESSEL FOR PATROL PURPOSES

Squadron at Esquimalt Will be Reduced to This Basis—Dockyard Will Eventually Disappear.

London, Dec. 16.—The more the news for the organization and distribution of the British navy are discussed, the more the reforms to be effected are welcomed and approved.

Organs of all shades of opinion concur in crediting those responsible for the scheme with having made an effort to combine economy with efficiency which promises success.

The squadrons or divisions, which hitherto were maintained in American waters, have now been practically established.

The squadron on the Pacific side has been reduced to one small vessel engaged in the fishery protection duty.

The South Atlantic squadron has been abolished altogether, and the squadron of the North American and West Indies station has been reduced to a couple of cruisers. Moreover, the ships on the last named station, which hitherto had their headquarters at Halifax, N. S., and at Port Royal, from now on are to have their base at Devonport.

Following naturally this rearrangement of the dockyards at Halifax, Port Royal and Esquimalt must eventually disappear. It is the essence of the scheme that no sudden dislocation of existing arrangements takes place, and therefore it is not likely that these dockyards will be immediately closed, but as the need of them will cease, it is quite certain that their respective establishments will be reduced, and no money be expended on the maintenance or upkeep.

OTTAWA NOTES.

Premier Haultain Will Discuss Provincial Autonomy With Ministers in January.

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—Premier Haultain, of the Northern Territories, has written Hon. Clifford Sifton stating that he will be here in Ottawa for the first week in January to discuss with the Dominion government the question of granting provincial autonomy to the Northwest Territories.

Postal to Mexico.

The ratel convention between Canada and Mexico has passed the Mexican senate. After January letters between both countries will be carried at the two cent rate.

Cabinet Meetings.

At a meeting of the cabinet on Wednesday an order-in-council was passed awarding the contract for building the new post office in Winnipeg to Thomas Kelly, of Winnipeg. The contract price is \$529,000. Mr. Kelly is a well known contractor in the West. Another contract was awarded to John McInnes for the construction of an immigration building at Halifax. It was also decided at a cabinet meeting today not to send a Dominion exhibit to Portland, Oregon.

THE JAPANESE BUDGET.

How the Deficit Is to Be Met—Retrenchment in Administration.

Tokio, Dec. 16.—The budget committee of the House of Representatives completed its labors today, and the measure will finally be submitted to the House tomorrow.

The war budget has not been changed, but the ordinary budget estimates are reduced \$7,000,000 by lowering the land tax. The taxes on beer sugar imports and transit dues are increased \$3,000,000. The government has promised additional retrenchment in the administration to the amount of \$80,000,000. The budget committee estimates of about \$5,000,000. The government is authorized to meet this by transfers of special funds and other methods.

All the parties worked jointly and harmoniously. The only friction was over the proposition to increase the land tax and decreasing the administrative expense.

DEMANDS IMMEDIATE TRIAL.

Russian Paper Says It Is Important That Capt. Clado Should Appear Before Commission.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 16.—The Novoye Vremya today demands the immediate trial of the admiral and Captain Clado, who was arrested December 15, and who was present in Paris as the most important witness at the international conference.

The paper also continues its campaign in favor of sending the Black Sea fleet through the Dardanelles.

The Russ papers are today loudly arguing against this plan on the ground of the danger to Russia of the free entry of the foreign fleets into the Black sea.

FINANCIER'S WEALTH.

William L. Elkins Left an Estate Worth More Than Thirty-two Million Dollars.

Philadelphia, Dec. 16.—William L. Elkins, the street railway and gas operator and financier who died in November, 1903, left an estate worth \$31,578,268, according to figures obtained from a first account of the executors, whose fees amount to \$31,382.

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