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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1905.

ONE CENT

CZAR'S SOLDIERS ARE ACTIVE NOW. Concentrating all Their Forces on the Shakhe River For a Great Attack—Japs Dislodged From Several Villages—Great Battle Soon.

Tokio, Feb. 18.—According to reports from the Shakhe River the Russians are showing increased activity on both flanks and are extending and strengthening their right. They also seem to be concentrating a heavy force on their left in front of Gen. Kuroki. Fushun is the base of the late operations and it is estimated that the Russians there number six divisions. The impression exists that Gen. Kuropatkin is preparing to assume the offensive. The weather is still unfavorable but the excessive cold will soon be over. Chinese reports to the effect that Gen. Kuropatkin is preparing to abandon the Shakhe River line and retire northward are discarded here. The Russians shelled portions of Oyama's center and left on Thursday Feb. 16. On Friday the Russian cavalry in retiring from a recent attack upon Oyama's left, halted at Liu-chiangfang. In this contention, the war office is considerably alarmed by the new danger threatening the Manchurian army from the systematic attempts being made by Japanese and Chinese bandits to cut the line of communication back of the army. According to reports, 10,000 men, split up into bands several hundred each, are operating from Mongolia and are striking at the rear. A Russian detachment following up the Japanese band which cut the road below Harbin fell into an ambush of two regularly organized Japanese regi-

RUSSIA CAPITAL IN SHADOW OF DOOM. Tragic Death of Grand Duke Sergius Struck Deep in the Hearts of the People—Belief That Russia Will Sue For Peace in Order to Cope With the Terrible Crisis at Home.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—1.30 p.m.—Oppression like the shadow of doom seems to be hanging over the Russian capital. Bells are tolling and the people in the streets are awestruck at yesterday's bloody crime. Every one seems to shrink before the contemplation of what may happen next. The tragedy struck deep in the heart of the perplexed and tried emperor, and many who were unsparring in their criticism yesterday today have only expressions of sympathy for his unhappy lot. The bitter cup which during the past year had been dished in every direction for the lips is only more filled to the brim, and in almost pathetic words the secret police are seeking out and praying for the repose of the soul of his murdered uncle. Death is in the air and no one knows where the next blow may fall. Although precautions have been taken in every direction for the preservation of the lives of the imperial family and the ministers, and the secret police are seeking out and arresting those known to be associated with the fighting organization, the authorities realize their impotency to ward off the swift act of terrorism, murder in the streets being possible at any instant. The only safety seems to lie in seeking refuge behind palace walls, and all the imperial family have been warned not to venture out. The papers speak with black borders. The editorials of all block borders are strangely sober. Some which in the past have been ready to lay all blame on the shoulders of the late Emperor Alexander III. The papers express personally to the Russian ambassador, his horror and requested him to convey his deep sympathy to Emperor Nicholas. An informal reception service was held at the Russian embassy at noon today for the repose of the soul of Grand Duke Sergius.

TRAINS MOVING FREELY ON I. C. R. There is Once More Uninterrupted Communication With Halifax --- Interesting Interview With J. B. Lambkin—Cape Breton Isolated.

The storm last night, which was quite fierce in this locality, led to the sending out of a special snowplow and flange, this morning to Moncton in charge of Conductor Wilson. Trackmaster Seaman was on board, with Mr. McPeake, who does not spare himself in the effort to do his duty. While therefore the people along the line have just cause for the most serious complaint against the owners of the road, the fault does not lie with Mr. McPeake, who does not spare himself in the effort to do his duty. Cape Breton Isolated. Sydney, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The entire Cape Breton Division of the I. C. R. is at a standstill today. The two ploughs out on the road are stuck and rendered useless. The heavy wing plough is working its way from New Glasgow this morning and the line will probably be blocked until the plough will open it. The ploughs on this division are too small to work against heavy drifts. Cape Breton will likely remain in splendid isolation until early next week. There is an express train stuck up at Grand Narrows since Thursday morning. In Western Ontario. London, Ont., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The storm here yesterday was the most severe of the winter. Snow fell heavily and drifted badly with the result that the railway lines suffered severely. The London Huron & Bruce Railway was completely blocked, no trains passing over it all day. The London and Port Stanley Railway also was blocked shuttling out from Marquette and the Marquette and Michigan Central trains. An express train which left there at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon became stalled at Glanworth and seven locomotives were sent to pull a train of three cars out of the drift. Coal Famine in Truro. Truro, N. S., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Truro is face to face with a real coal famine; but this is not the first time this winter that she has "hit up" against this foe. During the previous blockade the Truro foundry and other factories closed down for want of fuel, throwing more than one hundred men out of employment. But more serious than all was a close call that the Electric Light and Power Co. had in closing down. The manager had laid in an unusual supply of coal but had run down to three days supply, the railway is entirely dependent on the Lighting Company for night service and the real danger put full crews on and got along a limited supply to piece out. Families of all classes were out of fuel and a few cars got in at the same time were quickly picked up. The present most paralyzed blockade of all that have gone before it, now threatens a real fuel famine. The situation is that the roads are impassable and wood cannot be brought in. The dry goods clerks had a "man" fair supply of fuel can be brought in before the end of the week the problem will assume serious proportions. Truro is a sight now with three streets, which are now raised that banks of snow heaped six to ten feet high are thrown up from the sidewalks. Everything is snow. Business is at present at a standstill. The only orders the stores filled Thursday were sent by telephone. The dry goods clerks had a "man" as no ladies ventured out in the blizzard and blocked streets.

A FAT PURSE FOR GAMEY. Ontario Conservatives Will Do Honor to the "Man From Manitoulin"

Toronto, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—At a meeting of the executive of the Ontario Liberal Conservative Club following the reading of the motion was carried. Messrs. Robert, Rowell, Ganey, M. P. P., has rendered valuable services to the liberal conservative party and has been honored by bringing about the defeat of the Ross government. And, whereas, in the reading of such services Mr. Ganey has given much of his time and money. Be it resolved, that we, the executive of the Ontario Liberal Conservative Club, do hereby recommend to the liberal conservatives of the province of Ontario that they be taken for the purpose of raising a suitable monetary recognition to be presented to Robert Rowell Ganey, the distinguished member for Manitoulin, as a token of appreciation.

FREDERICTON NEWS. Provincial Land Surveyors Organize — Springhill Man to Lease York Hotel.

Fredericton, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—At a meeting of crown land surveyors here last evening it was decided to form a provincial land surveyors' association. W. E. Fish of Newcastle presided and W. Harrison was secretary. A committee composed of T. G. Loggie, Major MacDougal and C. L. Tracy was appointed to draw up by-laws and constitution. A meeting will be held March 23rd, to complete the organization. Mrs. Ivan Bartlett, wife of John Bartlett, died at Margerville last night aged seventy-nine. John A. Scott of Springhill, is negotiating for a lease of the York hotel here with good chance of success. He has secured an option from the present proprietors Bridges and McEwen and is likely to take possession May first. The city council will meet Tuesday evening to decide what action will be taken on Prof. Jack's report on the water system. At 1 o'clock today a man was seen to fall ill a fit near Brown's paper box factory, Canterbury St. He lay there for over an hour, until Sergeant Caples was notified. The sergeant telephoned for the ambulance. It took six men to roll the sufferer, so violent was his tremor, and get him into the ambulance, he had to be tied to the couch. No one seems to know his name, but he looked like a sailor. He was taken to the hospital. Thomas Baxter, who escaped from the reformatory was taken back today.

THEY GLORY IN IT. Among the revolutionaries, however, there is a sentiment of elation. They openly glory in the death, proclaiming that it removes the most reactionary influence at court, and they also proclaim the general theory that in the absence of armed resistance, only by terror can concessions be wrung from the hands of the autocracy. Expressions of condolence have reached the Emperor direct from practically all governments, with the exception of the United States and King Edward being especially warm and sympathetic in tone. It is probable that several governments will send representatives to the funeral of Grand Duke Sergius.

HE GOT OUT ONCE. St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—Prince Friedrich Leopold of Prussia, who has been sitting of the council of the empire has been summoned to Berlin at midnight.

THE KAISER MOURNS. Berlin, Feb. 18.—Emperor William was not present last night at the annual banquet of the Prussian House of Lords, absenting himself out of respect to the late Grand Duke Sergius of Russia. The Grand Duke was a well-known personality in Germany, where he had received many honors at the hands of the ruling family. He held the highest Prussian order, the Black Eagle and also the order "Four

MINING HORROR. Ten Men Hurlled Down a 1200-Foot Shaft This Morning.

Pottsville, Pa., Feb. 18.—While a cage containing ten workmen was being lowered here today, it caught in some loose timbers along the side of the shaft and was suddenly released, the cage dropped with such force as to tear the bottom from it. The miners were hurled to the 1200 feet and it is believed all were crushed to death.

HOTEL ARRIVALS. At the Royal—A. C. Crowe, Truro W. S. Montgomery, Dalhousie; G. J. Lewis, Campbellton; A. B. Cameron, Montreal; Harry Schow, Amherst; E. W. Nair, Woodstock; H. C. McLeod and wife, Toronto; Miss Graham, Halifax; J. F. Wambolt, Halifax; W. S. Minnis, Wm. Marsh, Robt. Stanford, Halifax; A. C. Hill, New York.

THE WEATHER. Fresh to strong southwest to west winds; fair, moderate to fresh westerly winds, fair and somewhat cold.

A SENSATIONAL VARN. London, Feb. 18.—The Daily Mail today publishes the story to the effect that a Russian non-commissioned officer has confessed that he was bribed to put a loaded shell in a salute gun on the occasion of the blessing of the waters of the Neva.

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THE N. B. SOUTHERN. It is certainly not the fault of the local management of the N. B. Southern railway that the trains are not running, however much the New York owner of the line may be condemned.

THE HOLD-UP MAN MADE HIS ESCAPE. Winnipeg, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Wm. Warren, the hold-up man who "peaked" on his pals Sandrock and McDonald, and who was being confined in jail at Portage la Prairie for the Winnipeg assizes escaped yesterday. He was carrying in his pocket a few dollars and was out of sight of the guard. He dashed across the jailyard and fled in the direction of the railway station.

WOODSTOCK NOMINATIONS WERE BADLY TANGLED UP. Woodstock, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The sheriff opened his court this morning at ten o'clock to receive nominations for the by-election caused by the selection of W. P. Jones for the solicitor generalship and resulted in a bad mix-up. Mr. Jones' nomination papers were in the hands of the sheriff in the proper time. H. H. Simms, barrister, was present as an opposition candidate. He noticed that the witness to his nomination papers had not made the A. B. Council, K. C. to enter a suit against the sheriff before the supreme court.

THE PARISIAN AT HALIFAX. Halifax, N. S., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The Allan steamer Parisian, from Liverpool and Merville, with weekly mails and passengers arrived here shortly after noon today.

SOME MORE INTERVIEWS. UPON CIVIC REFORM. The Times has secured the following additional interviews on the subject of civic reform.

J. D. Hazen. "The league have not yet announced their platform, therefore I could not say whether I would endorse the scheme or not. If the league has for its object the reduction of taxation, the people would probably support it. Anything that would tend to reduce taxation and keep the expenditure within the income, would meet with the hearty approval of the people. Until the league puts forward a well-defined platform it would be impossible for me to express an opinion. There have been no charges of boodling against the present council that I know of, and unless the platform of the proposed league takes some definite shape, I can't see how the present conditions can be bettered. It would be able to judge better when the members of the league state their position."

Wm. Hawker. "Until I learn the platform to be submitted by the civic reform league, I am not in a position to express an

opinion. However I think there is lots of room for improvement."

S. J. Golding. "I have not thought the matter over thoroughly, but believe that civic reform is needed."

W. Allan Black. W. Allan Black, proprietor of the Clifton House, said,—"I am heartily in favor of any movement that would tend to improve civic matters. A change in the council is greatly needed, and I think a Civic Reform League would prove a good organization."

John White, Dr. S. Alward, A. P. Barnhill, C. H. Hutchings, C. E. Vall and Joseph Allison said they had not given the matter sufficient consideration to express an opinion.

John O'Regan. "I have not given the matter very much consideration, but I think there is a lot of room for improvement. What we want at the board are independent men, who have some financial interests in the city. At present there are some good men at the board but there are also some that the city would be well to get rid of."

"Now is the winter of our discontent"—and the quotation ends there.

Another delegation waited upon our esteemed fellow citizen Mr. Jamesey Jones this morning and offered him a nomination for the city council. He said it was getting rather common now, but he'd think it over.

A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER. A suspicious character was seen hovering around City Hall this morning. The chairman of the board of assessors came down and declared after a careful survey that the man was not a taxpayer. The common clerk was equally sure that the man had never come to him for a license.

A constable was next summoned, and ordered to go out and interrogate the culprit, for by this time there was a general belief that his intentions were not friendly, although he carried no parcel and his pockets did not appear to bulge out with bombs.

When the constable approached him, the man assumed a confidential air, and those looking out of the windows of City Hall were presently surprised to see the two walk away together. Many surmises were indulged in by the anxious group, but their suspense was cut short by the return of the constable. "Your worship," said the constable, "that man wants to buy the

incident recalled he was unable to identify the stranger.

The director of public safety was hurriedly summoned, and he, too, was at a loss.

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Misses pulp mill. Knowing the secrecy with which all negotiations must be carried on, he deliberately set about to attract your attention without being seen to enter City Hall. He waits an interview with you as soon as possible."

"Tell him," replied the mayor, "that I will be at the northwest corner of the new warehouse on the McLeod wharf ten minutes before midnight. Then and there I will receive his tender, and no one be the wiser."

The various officials pledged themselves to secrecy, and departed to attend to their various duties.

If the little snow remaining above would come down at once the favor would be appreciated by a grateful people. We want to know where we are at.

Anxious Inquirer—You ask what you would be likely to get for out-lining a rational scheme of city government for St. John. If you offered it to the city council you would probably get six months.

The Times New Reporter.