The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-THIRD YEAR — THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST, FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1901. — VOLUME LXIII.

New York Inundated

From Many Parts of the State Come the Reports of Great Floods.

The Rivers Burst Their Banks and Cover the Land With Water.

Cause Due to Heavy Rains Melting the Deep Snow of Winter.

New York, March 27.—From many parts of the state came the news to-day of the floods. The waters of rivers and the small tributaries are reported as overflowing their banks, causing widespread inundations which threaten to destroy much property, if not bring about a loss of life, before they begin to subside.

Up to midnight to-night the only accident in which any one was injured which was reported during the day and evening, was that due to the washing out of a culvert near Norwich and the ditching of a Delaware & Lackawanna train. In the accident three people were slightly hurt.

This rush of water swelling the streams is due to heavy rains and the consequent melting of the snow which has lain for months and been deeper than usual in the central, northern and western portion of the state.

The Mohawk river, swollen by torrents of water flowing from the snow-covered Adirondacks, is higher than at any time in almost forty years, and much fear was expressed at Utica during the day that the rising waters would interfere with railway traffic; but to-night's reports show that the high point was reached and the waters were receding.

The Genesee valley is submerged in many places. The Genesee and its tributaries have not been so full for five years. A rise of 15 inches in 12 hours is the indication of the rapid rate at which the water is flowing into the Rochester and adjoining valleys.

Much railroad property is already under water, but the people think that if there is not a still further rise, the worst will be over by to-morrow morning. The rise at Genesee during last night was six inches, and farms in the vicinity suffered. Much damage is reported from Caledonia.

The people at Cortlandt are alarmed at the rush of water there, as the flood threatens to sweep away houses in the lower part of the city. A similar state of affairs existed at Binghampton early to-day, where manufacturing plants were forced to suspend, and where the citizens were on the alert to prevent a serious catastrophe, but no great damage has as yet resulted.

Watertown reports to-night that the Black river was getting up to near the highest water mark, with no signs of a subsidence; and late to-night Eaton, in Madison county, was in danger of a calamity through the threatened collapse of a reservoir which supplies the village with its drinking water.

STEELE'S BODY IS RECOVERED

Another Victim of the Union Mines Disaster Has Been Found.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Cumberland, B. C., March 27.—The body of R. Steele, the cager in No. 6 shaft, one of the victims of the disaster at the Union mines, was discovered this afternoon at the bottom of the shaft, and was hoisted to the surface.

The water is well down in the shaft now, and the real work of clearing out the mine may be expected to begin to-morrow.

A large cave-in, however, will render the work slow at first.

LEAVING PORTO RICA.

Planters Have No Money and People Are Emigrating.

San Juan, March 27.—The agents of the company engaged in constructing the railroad from Guayaquil to Quito, Ecuador, are in Porto Rico, recruiting for laborers to work on this railway. This, in connection with the departure yesterday of 894 emigrants for Hawaii and 400 more for Cuba to work in the iron mines, is draining Porto Rico of its best laborers. The entire press of the island is objecting to this emigration. Planters cannot cultivate their lands owing to the lack of money, consequently there is no work to be had here. The authorities are taking no steps to prevent this emigration.

THE GORDON MURDER.

Trial of Donald Todd Opens at the Winnipeg Assizes.

Winnipeg, March 27.—(Special)—The trial of Donald Todd, charged with the murder of John Gordon on Portage avenue in October, 1899, was commenced this morning at the assizes, before Chief Justice Killam. There was some difficulty in securing a jury, and an extra panel was made up from spectators in the court room. The evidence up to 6 o'clock had not differed materially from that given at the preliminary trial. H. M. Howell, K. C., is defending the prisoner, and Mr. Bonnar is conducting the case for the crown.

George Spalding, the absconding cashier of the Merchants' Bank branch at Gladstone, was arrested yesterday at Medicine Hat, and will be brought back for trial.

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

Twelve More Cases Officially Reported In Capetown.

Capetown, March 27.—Twelve fresh cases of bubonic plague were officially reported to-day. Eight of the victims are Europeans and four are colored persons. Two colored victims died to-day. The Malays are causing the authorities much trouble, but the priests are helping the government to enforce sanitary regulations.

REBELS ACTIVE.

But Panama Merchants Are Tired of Paying War Taxes.

Kingston, Jamaica, March 25.—The British mail steamer Mara, Capt. Stranger, from Colon, brings reports of renewed activity on the part of the rebels in the vicinity of Panama. The hands of the government are full in their efforts to keep the rebels out of the cities. Excessive war taxes are being levied, and last week a party of business men protested against the high rates. They were thereupon arrested and charged with being rebel sympathizers. Two of the prisoners managed to leave the country, but the others were kept in prison until they had paid the heavy fines imposed upon them. Passengers by the Para say the revolution shows no signs of ending in the near future. Business is carried on in Colon and Panama with the greatest difficulties and the enormous prices of food stuffs is causing general suffering. The Liberals are expecting reinforcements from the Costa Rican sympathizers.

WANTS A SETTLEMENT.

United States Sending Cruiser to Collect a Bill.

Gibraltar, March 25.—The armored cruiser New York is ready to sail tomorrow for Mazagan, on the coast of Morocco, where she will remain until United States Consul General Cummers has secured an adjustment of the claims of the United States government at the Morrocan capital.

Delarey Is Badly Defeated

Two Fifteen Pounders, One Pom Pom and Six Maxims Taken.

Besides Ammunition, Convoy, Rifles and Many Prisoners—Our Loss Slight.

London, March 26.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Kitchener:

"Pretoria, March 25.—Babington's force, including Shekelton's column, attacked Delarey, fifteen hundred strong, southwest of Ventersdorp, and having defeated him, followed him up rapidly, with the result that the Boer rear guard was driven in and their convoy, including the guns, were captured at Vaalbank.

"With great gallantry and dash, they captured two fifteen pounder guns, one pom-pom, six Maxims, 320 rounds of big ammunition, and 15,000 rounds of small ammunition, 100 rifles, 53 wagons and 24 carts, besides taking 140 prisoners.

"Our losses were slight. Many Boers were killed or wounded."

In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Chamberlain, in reply to a question as to the reported intention of the government to settle a number of soldiers in South Africa, replied that the government had no intention of expropriating the owners of lands or of taking lands in any other way than it could be taken in England.

Mr. Balfour, reinforcing the Colonial Secretary's statement, said the government did not contemplate any such suicidal folly as confiscating the lands of the Boers.

Sir Robert Peel to-day laid on the table of the House of Commons a petition from Merriman and Sauer, respectively, the former treasurer of Cape Colony, and former commisioner of public works of Cape Colony, asking for permission to address the house with respect to the peace settlement in South Africa, and against the establishment of a crown colony form of government. The petitioners have dropped the idea of protesting against annexation.

ON THE WAY.

Winnipeg, March 25.—(Special)—A party of Strathcona's Horse arrived in the city to-day. At the head was Lieut. Jack Leckie, of Greenwood, B.C., the others being Corp. Murray, of Vernon; Ptes. S. H. Winkle, W. D. Fraser, H. O. Fraser, G. Elliott and A. A. Vernon, of Victoria.

Mr. Chamberlain, when asked if it was possible to change the offer of peace terms to the Boers, said the negotiations were closed, and there was no intention of re-opening them.

The official casualty list issued last evening indicates a renewal of active operations since the failure of the negotiations between Lord Kitchener and Gen. Botha. At Hartebeestfontein, March 22 and 23, two officers were killed and three wounded and four men killed and twenty wounded. There also seems to have been heavy fighting at a place near Gredgedact, on March 18, and near Ventersburg on March 16. Ventersdorp, the scene of the defeat of Delarey, is about twenty-five miles north of Hartebeestfontein. It is possible therefore that the advices as to fighting at these points really refer to the same engagements.

The Pretoria correspondent of the Standard says that it is obvious some months must pass before Boer resistance can be crushed. The Amsterdam correspondent of the Daily Express says he understands that Mr. Kruger has advised acting President Schalkburgher to formulate peace terms.

It is virtually certain that the government will decline to hear Messrs. Merriman and Sauer at the bar of the House of Commons, on the ground that being ex-ministers, they have no locus standi.

Capetown, March 25.—It is said that the Boers lost heavily attacking the garrison at Lichtenburg last week. Upwards of 70 burghers are reported to have been shot at one spot among the wire entanglements.

WILL ARBITRATE.

Kingston, Jamaica, March 23.—Reliable information has been received here to the effect that the recent boundary dispute between Hayti and Santo Domingo, which was reported to have threatened hostilities, was suspended on condition that the matter is submitted to arbitration. The dispute arose from an attempt to divert the course of a river marking the boundary between the two countries.

In deference to public opinion the Jamaica government has revised the taxation proposals to make all cultivated lands bear the same proportionate burden of taxation as the United Fruit Co.

Rout of The Boers

Lord Kitchener Tells of Babington's Action and Its Brilliant Success.

Grey's New Zealanders and Bushmen Rushed the Convoy in Short Order.

Enemy Had no Time to Take up Position and Fled in Disorder.

London, March 27.—A despatch from Lord Kitchener to the war office, dated Pretoria, March 27, says:

"Our casualties in Gen. Babington's action were two killed and seven wounded.

"The Boers left 22 dead and 30 wounded. As their pursuit was rapid, many more Boer casualties are likely.

"The operations of March 23 drove the enemy north from their positions at Kaffir's Kraal.

On the 27th the pursuit was continued by mounted men only. The enemy's rear guard was driven in by a combined movement on both flanks. Their convoy was then sighted at Lenwooffontein. The Greys, New Zealanders and Bushmen pushed on.

"The enemy attempted to take up a position, but the Greys and other troops rode down all opposition, and gave them no chance.

"The convoy was ridden into and the enemy's retirement became a rout. The pursuit was continued until the horses were exhausted."

BELLA COOLA.

Indians Want Japanese Excluded From the Fisheries.

Bella Coola, March 25.— The Indians have just returned from Rivers Inlet, where they have been attending an Indian potlatch. Plans were laid as to the best way of getting at the canneries, in having the price of salmon advanced, and also to do away with the Japanese as fishermen. These arguments are brought up in connection with the petition sent to the fisheries department at Ottawa, and signed by a great number of Indians. The general impression here is that this petition is a very hard question to deal with. A great many people closely connected with the salmon canneries know that the Indians themselves have brought about this very thing that they are now asking the government at Ottawa to remedy. It is a well known fact that at Rivers Inlet, after the canneries supplied the Indians with boats, nets and licenses, they hardly caught enough fish to eat for themselves during fishing season; strikes and other troubles seemed to be a daily occurrence. Hence the managers of the canneries last season obtained a great number of Japanese as fishermen, and will this season employ still more, as the Japanese proved to be very good fishermen. Now the Indians petition the government to remedy a state of affairs that they have brought about.

A. H. Pallard is hard at work clearing land and making preparations to leave for the Fraser, where he will spend the summer.

The merchants are anxiously waiting for the steamer to call and take out a large shipment of potatoes for the canneries on the Skeena river. B. Brynildsen & Co. are large dealers in potatoes.

H. Odegaard and G. B. Olson have bought a fine team of horses from Victoria, and are now busy plowing and clearing, preparatory to planting and seeding, both for themselves and neighbors.

Mr. Cr. Carlson is one of the new fisheries guardians for the northern districts.

J. B. Sylvester has accepted a position with the Good Hope cannery, and left for Rivers Inlet last week.

STATE OWNERSHIP OF CABLE LINES

Mr. Mulock Favors Construction By Government of Cable Between Canada and Great Britain---Australian Service Improved.

Montreal, March 27.—The Star's cable from London to-day says: "Mr. Mulock, postmaster-general of Canada, gave evidence yesterday before the inter-departmental cable committee. The proceedings were private, but it is understood that Mr. Mulock favored the expansion of the state owned cable system by the that Mr. Mulock favored the expansion of the state owned cable system by the construction of a government cable between Canada and Great Britain, and also the acquisition of a line from Australia via Singapore and Hongkong. The latter extension would be of the greatest possible advantage to Canada, as thereby Canada would via a Pacific cable, be in direct communication with China and Japan, a great advantage to Canadians seeking trade development in the Orient.

Mr. Mulock, accompanied by Mrs. Mulock and son, left London to-day for Brindisi, where they will embark on the steamship Himalaya. Speaking of a fast mail service, Mr. Mulock said he favored government control and regarded Sydney, Cape Breton, as the Canadian port offering the best facilities.

"I understand that one of the objects Mr. Mulock hopes to accomplish in his conference with the Australian ministers is an improved Canadian-Australian service."

The Day in Parliament

Senate Is Making Rapid Progress With the Cook Investigation.

Move to Make Civil Servants' Salaries Attachable Like Ordinary Mortals.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, March 27.—The Cook inquiry is making rapid progress. Mr. Cook was under cross-examination this morning, and his son-in-law, Frank McDonald, gave testimony this afternoon. The latter states that Cameron told him that Cook could have had a senatorship for $10,000, and was foolish he did not accept the chance.

Mr. Ritchie, counsel for the Senate, contended that a prima facie case had been made out, sustaining Mr. Cook's charges.

None of the counsel was disposed to call the witnesses Biggs and Preston. Mr. Ritchie said he had reason to believe their testimony would not be straightforward. It is likely the committee will call them.

Sir Richard Cartwright may be summoned to-morrow.

Ralph Smith, M. P., will test the opinion of the house on the advisability of passing a measure providing that there must be a reference to the people on all proposals to grant to private enterprises large amounts of public moneys or public lands.

The house to-day discussed the motion by Mr. Fortin in favor of making salaries of government employees attachable like those of ordinary citizens.

INDIAN BUDGET.

Viceroy Congratulates the Country on Cheering Prospects.

Calcutta, March 27.—Lord Curson of Keddleston, viceroy of India, to-day spoke of the necessity of reform in many directions and congratulated the council on the surplus after a year of famine. He said the currency policy had gained strength and stability, and that the ravens had ceased to croak concerning it. He defended the military estimates, saying that while he would spend the revenues on economic measures, an increase in the army was required to make India safe, which was not the case at the present time. While the whole world was busy with military reform, Lord Curzon concluded, India could not stand still.

NAVAL ARCHITECTS.

A Discussion on Warships—Against Superimposed Turrets.

London, March 27.—At the spring meeting of the Institute of Naval Architects to-day, in this city, the Earl of Glasgow, presiding, the principal paper read was that of Prof. J. H. Biles, entitled, "Ten Years of Naval Construction in the United States." It was wholly statistical but complimentary to United States ship designers and builders, and their continued improvement in the construction of armor and armament.

The reading of the paper by Prof. Biles was followed by a discussion, in which John Colomb, M.P., said the Americans did not keep to the same type, but improved it. He said they were up-to-date in matters of armor. Then they had introduced an 8-inch gun. The only objections to 8-inchers on battleships were that they were superimposed on large guns.

Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald said he thought all present were against superimposed turrets. The naval officers at San Francisco were all against them. United States torpedo boats of 140 tons have a speed of 30 knots, and if they did that they beat anything Great Britain had. Prof. Biles, referring to the proportionately light draft of United States ships, said it was impossible to say what could be left out in the construction of British ships when they were said to have the same displacement as United States ships, notwithstanding their lighter armament. The Admiralty Herald furnished the information.

AGUINALDO CAPTURED

Manila, March 28.—Gen. Funston's daring project for the capture of Aguinaldo in his hiding place in the province of Isabella, Island of Luzon, has proved completely successful.

Aguinaldo was captured there March 23.

The United States gunboat Vicksburg, Commander B. Barry, with Gen. Funston and Aguinaldo on board, arrived here this morning.

ELECTRIC STORM.

Westminster Has a Lively Visitor and Suffers Damage.

Vancouver, March 27.—(Special)—New Westminster was visited by a violent electric storm last night. Many declare the storm the worst of its kind British Columbia has known. It did much damage to the local electric light plant, while the arresters and machines at the Burnaby power house were damaged to the extent of $5,000. Strange to say, Vancouver, ten miles distant from Burnaby, escaped entirely.

Japanese Will Fight

Secretary of Japanese Legation in London Uses Plain Words About Russia.

If His Government See War Inevitable They Will Act Promptly.

How the Ministers In Pekin Expect to Collect Indemnity From China.

London, March 25.—The Chinese minister, Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Luh, called at the foreign office this afternoon and urged the British government to bring pressure to bear in order to prevent Russia from securing the necessary signatures of the Manchurian agreement. The government is still in the dark to-night as to whether the agreement will be signed or allowed to lapse when the time expires March 26. The officials of the Japanese legation are inclined to believe that Russia will succeed in getting the necessary signatures.

The situation is still more complicated, owing to the fact, ascertained by a representative of the Associated Press, that there are two secret treaties, one of which is to be signed at St. Petersburg, dealing with Russia's military control of Manchuria, and another to be signed at Pekin, dealing with her civil powers.

The Chinese appeals for support have failed to produce any direct remonstrances from Great Britain, or apparently from any other power, to St. Petersburg, for Russia persistently adheres to her contention that the secret agreements concerned no one except herself and China. On this ground Great Britain's request for copies of the agreement was abruptly declined.

It is explained at the foreign office here that it would be a dangerous and useless breach of diplomatic procedure to endeavor to enter upon expostulations with Russia, which would only be based upon informatio nsupplied by the Chinese.

In other words, the copies of secret treaties and alleged modifications of them recently given to the powers by the Chinese, are worthless documents, and will remain such until Russia herself chooses to communicate the text of actual treaties and modifications.

In the absence of the Japanese minister in London, Baron Hayashi, Mr. Mateui, first secretary of the Japanese legation, interviewed this afternoon by a representative of the Associated Press, made some comprehensive statements. He said: "Russia's insistence, China's helplessness, and the probable victory of Russian diplomacy to-morrow will bring us to the brink of a dangerous situation, in which none of the powers is so deeply interested as Japan. Even if the secret treaties have been modified as is alleged, the changes are so trifling as to make the documents thoroughly objectionable to Japan.

"Assuming that China signs the treaties, I suppose Great Britain, Germany and the United States will protest to Russia. But that is about as far as they will go, and about as much as they will get. With Japan it is a matter of fighting.

"The question is whether we are to fight Russia now or to fight her later on. She has no right to Manchuria, and if she secures Manchuria, she will be on the way to securing Korea.

"Our government, I believe, are considering the crisis. Their eyes are opened, and they will not be driven to precipitate action by the jingoists of Japan, who are openly clamoring for immediate war. Yet, if they see that war is unavoidable, they will not hesitate to strike.

"Japan has no reason to be afraid as to the result. Many reasons occur to the average Japanese, and is in favor of forcing at the present moment a struggle which must come eventually. The chief reason against so doing is the fact that Japan is just beginning a new industrial era, which would be temporarily killed should we endeavor by force to prevent Russian encroachments.

"If we follow the lead of other powers and do not threaten hostilities, we realize that we must sit down tamely and see any other nation step in to make arrangements similar to those which China seems on the verge of signing with Russia. This would mean the partition of the Chinese empire and the end of the 'open door.' If we opposed it, we naturally think we would have the moral support of the United States, Great Britain and Germany."

CHINA'S INCOME.

Pekin, March 25.—The special committee of ministers appointed to consider China's ability to meet the indemnity claims is already well forward with the work of investigating the resources of the empire. Sir Robert Hart, director-general of the imperial maritime customs, has been examined, as also have the managers of representative Chinese banks many pawnbrokers and Chinese financiers. The consular reports for a number of years back have been closely read. It now appears that from different sources the annual revenue aggregates about $65,000,000, derived from the land tax, the grain tax, the likin, the customs, the opium tax, and miscellaneous imports. The largest two items are the land tax, which brings in $14,000,000, and the foreign customs, which yields $12,000,000.

In the opinion of all the foreigners who have participated in the examination, the land tax could be doubled and even tripled without much hardship, and the salt tax could be raised from $6,000,000 to $20,000,000.

It is believed that the total increase could be made to amount to $150,000,000. If, then, the imperial customs could be reduced to $45,000,000, there would be left available for the liquidation of the interest on loans and the indemnity fund the sum of $105,000,000. Making all allowances, it would be possible to pay the indemnity within 20 years.

NO REASON.

Botha Made No Specific Objection to Offer.

London, March 23. — Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, in the House of Commons to-day, said no specific objections had been made by Gen. Botha, who had made no counter proposal. The only information in the possession of the government outside of that published in the papers was contained in a private telegram from Gen. Kitchener, saying Gen. Botha had a strong objection to Sir Alfred Milner.

BRITISH SHIP BUILDERS.

U. S. Tariff on Steel Helps Ship Yards in Old Country.

London, March 25.—Sir Theodore Doxford, speaking to-day at the annual meeting of Wm. Doxford & Sons, of Sunderland, said that as long as the heavy import duties on steel continued in the United States, British ship-builders would be able to get United States steel at from 20 to 40 shillings less per ton than the price the same steel sold for in the United States. Hence the steel combination selling its surplus production in Great Britain would keep up the cost of American-built ships and keep down the cost of ships built in Great Britain.

NORTH BRUCE.

Haliday, Conservative Candidate, Is Elected.

Tara, Ont., March 25.—(Special)—Official returns in Wednesday's Dominion by-elections show James Haliday, Conservative, elected by a majority of 11.

C. P. R. RECEIPTS.

Large Increase Over Same Week Last Year.

Montreal, March 25.—(Special)—C. P. R. traffic receipts in the week ending March 21, were $575,000; for the same week last year, $529,000.

Is Dewet A Prisoner?

Report That Boer Leader Has At Last Been Captured by British.

Boers Are Making Another Attempt to Cross the Orange River.

Portsmouth, Eng., March 28.—The Evening News of this city publishes a statement to the effect that Gen. Dewet has been captured.

Capetown, March 28.—Commandant Kritzinger, Commandant Scheper and Commandant Van Reenan have joined forces, and the Boer commando, 1,000 strong, are now moving in the direction of the Orange river, via Vrulerstad.

ANTHRACITE TROUBLES.

Morgan Is Polite, But Fails to Agree to Meeting.

New York, March 27.—A delegation composed of five men, representing trade interests in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal regions, with Rev. Father Edward Phillips acting as chairman, this afternoon held a conference with Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, in the private office of Mr. Morgan. The conditions of unrest in the anthracite coal regions at present was set forth in briefest possible form by Father Phillips, who presented the delegation to Mr. Morgan, and to whom Mr. Morgan expressed his interest in their errand and his willingness to make personal efforts to prevent a strike, though he declined to hold a public conference with the labor leaders. Father Phillips, addressing Mr. Morgan after his formal presentation of the delegation, asked Mr. Morgan if he would meet John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers' Association. Mr. Morgan, replying broadly to this question and addressing himself to Father Phillips touching the errand of the delegation, said in substance that his attitude to the present has been towards prevention of a strike. He said he was much interested in the mission of the delegation, and he assured them they could rely upon him to do all in his power to prevent any friction that would paralyze business. He remarked, however, that he was disinclined to hold a public conference with the labor leaders, indicating as a reason the belief that should a public meeting between himself and the labor leaders be held, the publicity thereof and possibly attendant conclusions, might hamper the achievements of the best ends which all were seeking. "You may rest assured that I believe there will be no strike," remarked Mr. Morgan, and then added that these matters could be arranged through proper channels, and that there were other people than himself who could look after details, and he would lend his efforts to accomplishing such results in such manner.

TURKEY'S TROUBLES.

Rising in Arabia and Stormy Outlook In Macedonia.

London, March 27.—Advices received here from Constantinople are to the effect that affairs are rapidly reaching a dangerous pass there. Turkish finances are in inextricable confusion, all government salaries being from six to eight months in arrears. Upwards of a million (Turkish) pounds is due for war material, while the military expenditure is daily increasing in order to cope with the rebellion in the province of Yemen, in Southern Arabia, and the possible rising in Macedonia. There is no doubt that Ottoman troops received a severe check at the hands of the Arabian insurgents, who in a manifesto denouncing the Sultan, proclaimed his brother Sultan, with the title of Mohammed V. The Young Turks party have adhered to the Arabian proclamation, and declared open enmity to Abdul Hamid. The Sultan has fled to the palace, and the Sultan's adviser, Izzet Bey, is said to be preparing for flight. The patrols of Constantinople have been doubled. Mohammedans and Christians are arrested hourly, and large numbers are daily shipped to Asia Minor.

The tension between Bulgarians and Mussulmans in Macedonia is extreme. It is reported that another band of marauders has crossed Bulgaria into Macedonia.

REFUSES TO SIGN.

China Does Not Agree to Russia's Demands.

London, March 27—The officials of the Japanese embassy confirm the report that an imperial decree has been issued by the court at Sian Fu, through Liu Kun Yi, the viceroy of Nankin, ordering that the Manchurian convention should not be signed on March 26, the date fixed by Russia.

An intimation of this decree has been telegraphed to the various governments concerned.

A woman one time in Topeka,
Concluded that she ought to wreck a
Vengeance sublime
On the bars of that clime—
And now the saloonists are meeker.
—Detroit Free Press.

Unable To Accept

Great Britain's Answer to the United States Is Made Public.

States Reasons For Declining Amendments to the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty.

Proposed Changes Disregarded the Empire's Possessions on This Continent.

Washington, March 26.—The communication from the British government giving the reasons why that government declined to accept the senate amendments to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty was made public to-day.

Lord Lansdowne considers separately the three amendments of the senate. He shows that under Article 1 of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty the two parties agreed that neither would occupy or fortify or colonize or assume or exercise any dominion over any part of Central America, nor attain any of the foregoing objects by alliance with any state or people of Central America. There is no similar agreement in the contract. If, therefore, the treaty were wholly abrogated, both powers, except in the vicinity of the canal, would recover entire freedom of action in Central America. This change, he thinks, would certainly be of advantage to the United States, and might be of substantial importance.

The other two amendments, in the opinion of Lord Lansdowne, present more formidable difficulties. The first of them, the so-called Davis amendment, which reserves to the United States the right of taking any measure which it may find necessary to secure by its own forces the defence of the canal, appears to His Majesty's government to involve a distinct departure from the principle which until now found acceptance with both governments, namely, that in time of war, as well as in time of peace, the passage of the canal is to remain free and unimpeded, and is to be so maintained by the power or powers responsible for its control. With this amendment added to the convention, the United States, it is presumed, would be within their rights if, at any moment when it seemed to them their safety required in view of warlike preparations not yet commenced but contemplated, or supposed to be contemplated by another power, they resorted to warlike acts in or near the canal, acts clearly inconsistent with the neutral character which has always been sought to give it, and which would deny the free use of it to the commerce and navies of the world. He goes on to show that there is no analogy between the tenth article of the Suez canal convention and the Davis amendment, adding:

"The banks of the Suez canal are within the dominions of a territorial sovereign who was a party to the convention and whose established interests it was necessary to protect, whereas the Nicaragua canal will be constructed in territory belonging not to the United States but to Central American states, whose sovereign rights other powers cannot claim to dispose of."

Lord Lansdowne states his objections to the amendment which strikes out Article 3 of the convention under which the high contracting parties engage, immediately upon the convention being ratified, to bring it to the notice of other powers, and to invite their adherence, as follows:

"If that adherence were given, the neutrality of the canal would be secured by the whole of the adhering powers. Without that adherence it would depend only upon the guarantee of the two contracting powers."

The amendment, he thinks, not only removes all prospects of the wider guarantee, but places Great Britain in a position of marked disadvantage compared with other powers. If His Majesty's government were to agree to such an arrangement, while the United States would have a treaty right to interfere with the canal in time of war or apprehended war, and while other powers could with a clear conscience disregard any of the restrictions imposed by the convention, Great Britain alone, in spite of her enormous possessions on the American continent, and in spite of her Australasian colonies and her interests in the East, would be precluded from resorting to any such action, or from taking measures to secure her interests in and near the canal.

Lord Lansdowne instructed the British ambassador to explain to the secretary of state the reasons set forth in the despatch why His Majesty's government feel unable to accept the convention in the shape presented to them by the United States ambassador, and why they prefer, as matters stand at present, to retain unmodified the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

"His Majesty's government," he says, "throughout these negotiations have given evidence of their desire to meet the views of the United States. They would in this connection have been ready to consider in a friendly spirit any amendments of the government of the United States, not inconsistent with the principles of both governments, which the government of the United States might propose; and they would sincerely regret a failure to come to an amicable understanding in regard to this important subject."

A. W. ROSS DEAD.

He Was a Well Known Resident of British Columbia.

Winnipeg, March 25.—(Special)—Mr. D. A. Ross received a telegram on Saturday evening conveying the sad news of the death of his brother, Arthur Wellington Ross, ex-M.P. for Lisgar, now Selkirk, division. Deceased was a resident of Columbia, B.C., but about two months ago was stricken with paralysis and was taken to Toronto for treatment. A second stroke followed last week, from which he never rallied.

SHE REFUSED HIM.

Natick, R. I., March 23.—An Italian mill operative, Giovanni Lautier, was arrested at his home here to-day, charged with assaulting and seriously injuring four persons. It is alleged that during the night he stole into the house of Enrichetto Mazarello, a young woman, who had rejected his matrimonial advances, and, armed with a hatchet, crept upstairs to the room occupied by the young woman and two other Italian girls. An old man, Erico Delpozzo, going to their assistance, was felled with a hatchet, his skull being fractured. The Mazarello girl's skull was also fractured, and the other women were badly cut up. The two with fractured skulls are in a precarious condition.