

The French Cook

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## Are Interested In Proposed Line

Victoria Merchants Betray Lively Interest in Coming Mexican Trade.

Probability That Thorough In vestigation Into Conditions Will Be Made.

All other topics of external interest are overshadowed for the present by the importance of the proposed Canada-Mexica line of steamships. As already reported in these columns, the merchants and business men of Victoria have taken a deep interest in the hast-ter, as being something which comes home to them in a practical way, offering sec be for the exercise of the keen trading spirit, which has made Victoria the premier commercial city of West-

trading spirit which has made Victoria the premier commercial city of Western Canada.

It is understood that immediate steps are to be taken by a body of the merchants to investigate by means of their own specially appointed agents the conditions as they actually exist in Mexico, and so gain a clear understanding of the requirements. That a splendid and lucrative traffic between the two countries can be built up in the course of a year tor two no one who has any information on the subject doubts. of a year tor two no one who has any information on the subject doubts.

The Mexican opening has superseded for the time being the Oriental prospects, which were discussed with lively interest some weeks ago. But the Oriental market will keep, there is room for all the world over there to make good profits off their trading. But the Mexican market is now in its prime condition for the entrance of strong, healthy competitors such as Victoria will be. The latest accounts from the republic are that Americans are swarming into Mexico by the thousand, attracted by the new policy of the government, which is copying to a considerable extent the methods of the United States. Victorians cannot make any mistake in getting an early insight into the commercial conditions in Mexico.

GASOLINE LAUNCH FOR NOME.

An interesting future is in store for the gasoline launch Seddon, built in Tacoma and owned by Tacoma people, says the News of that city. The little craft is to go on the run between Nome and Solomon.

When the steamer Elihu Thomson left Tacoma Wednesday towing the ship Dashing Wave, the Seddon was also taken. At the Aleutian islands the steamer will drop the launch, and thence to Nome, a distance of 700 miles, the little gasoline craft will make her own way through the far north seas.

THE AUSTRIAN NAVY.

Buda Pest, June 2.—During the debate of the Austro-Hungarian naval estimates by the Austrian delegation today, Admiral Spaun said that the credits would be used for rapid reconstruction of the fleet. Rapidity of construction was necessary because battleships and torpedo boats ceased to be up to the standard of a modern fleet. "In a year and a half we will," said Admiral Spaun, "have the same number of battleships as we had in 1570. It is necessary to protect the harbor and fortress of Pola, because the Russo-Japanese war has proved the dangers to which vessels are exposed by daring at nese war has proved the dangers to which vessels are exposed by daring attacks of the enemy." Regarding submarine boats, the admiral said that the government intended to build one for the present and continue construction if the tests on this should be satisfac-

# **FOURTEEN THOUSAND** RUSSIANS ON MARCH

General Stalkenberg Starts For South From Liaoyang With Large Army.

London, June 3.-The Daily Mail's London, June 3.—The Daily Mail's New Chwang correspondent, cabling under date of June 2nd says: "General Stalkenberg with 14,000 Russians, made up of artillery, cavalry and infantry, has marched south of Liaoyang in the direction of Wafantieng. Large forces of Chinese bandits are collecting in the hills northeast of the Liao river and are preparing to cut the railway north of Mukden."

The correspondent of the Daily Experience of the Correspondent of the Daily Experience of the Dai The correspondent of the Daily Express at Nagasaki cables that transports loaded with troops continue to leave Western Japanese ports daily for the theatre of war. A large proportion of those despatched during the past week, he says, were to reinforce General Oku.

American Derby. Chicago, June 2.—Bear Catcher, one of the California candidates for the American Derby, made his debut on Chicago tracks in the second race at Hawthorne today, and made good by winning handily by nearly two lengths. Sourriers, backed from 100 to 1 to 1, thinisted second, half d length in front of New Mown Hay. Two second choices and three outsiders divided first honors in the five races. Weather clear and cool.

THE MOROCCO BANDITS.

London, June 3.—A despatch from Tangier to the Times says that Moham-med El Torres has appealed to the tribes to capture Raisuli, saying that this alone can save Morocco from in-

To Play or Not to Play?

The Vancouver News-Advertiser says:

"The only topic in lacrosse circles now is the coming match in New Westminster on June 11th between the Vancouver and New Westminster senior teams. It has been rumored that the latter club will not play, but this report is without confirmation, and the talk of the Royal City club withdrawing from the B. C. A. L. A. is not thought to be true. The New Westminster club have always taken childish stands as the occasion might arise, but there is no getting around the fact that New Westminster would be considered out of the athletic world if they quit playing lacrosse on the hanks of the Fraser. The national game has been a great revenue producer at the annual exhibition held in New Westminster, and without such great attractions few people would journey from this city.

The local club will train hard from now until the 11th, and they will go on the field in the best of shape. Judging from reports they are doing no practicing in New Westminster, but they will be like Rip Van Winkle and wake up some day."

Italy and Spain have fewer judicial houses in proportion to their population than any other country in the world; the Argentine Republic and Uruguay have the