

NO PEACE PROPOSALS, SAYS JAP AMBASSADOR; NOTHING IN THE TALK OF U. S. MEDIATION

**Mikado's Agent at Paris and French Foreign Officials
Deny Having Met to Arrange Peace Negotiations.**

**Oyama Now Advancing on Line-
vitch With Widely Extended
Wings.**

Paris, March 31. — 1:55 p.m. — Whatever hopefulness the peace situation may have had some days ago, the situation has now completely changed, and there is every prospect that the war will drag on again. Consequently dispatches appearing in America saying that Foreign Minister Delcasse and Dr. Motono, the Japanese minister to France, have been conferring at the former's house relative to peace are inaccurate. The foregoing view of the situation is taken by the parties immediately concerned, and it is asserted with the authority of the foreign office and the Japanese legation.

The Associated Press correspondent has talked lengthily with Dr. Motono during the last few days, and the situation heretofore set forth in these dispatches reflected the view of Dr. Motono, and others directly concerned, although with the usual reservation of not using their names. However, in view of the continued reports that there were indications that Minister Delcasse and Dr. Motono were taking an active part in the negotiations, the correspondent of the Associated Press called at the Japanese legation today, and requested Dr. Motono to furnish a decisive statement which would put at rest all misunderstanding. Accordingly the minister gave the Associated Press the following categorical statement, which was taken in writing, and may be accepted as authoritatively clearing the situation:

"I tell you explicitly that there are no peace negotiations or preliminaries for initiating peace negotiations in progress at this time, so far as I am aware, and I believe my information to be complete. I am not desirous of discussing the general question of peace, for owing to the complete absence of negotiations or preliminaries toward negotiations that question can be only academic and without practical bearing.

"The statements that I have conferred with M. Delcasse at his residence are false, and calculated to confuse a situation, which is perfectly plain. There is no representative of Japan authorized at this time to discuss peace or foreshadow in the slightest what conditions the Japanese Government might consider if the negotiations assumed a practical stage. On the contrary, Japan is now engaged in conducting a military campaign, and she will resolutely proceed with that important work."

It can be added that the introduction of the foregoing dispatch, as well as the portion quoted, was submitted to Dr. Motono, who approved every word. It was similarly submitted to the foreign office, where it was approved throughout. Therefore the dispatch can be accepted as being in the highest degree authoritative.

Peace Prospects Destroyed.

Washington, March 31. — M. Jussier, and the French ambassador, is of the opinion that peace is not in immediate prospect between Russia and Japan. He so expressed himself after a visit to President Roosevelt today to bid him good-bye before the President goes on his southwestern trip, and said that both combatants at this time appeared to be bent on continuing hostilities for a satisfactory adjustment of their

difficulties. He added that he did not talk with the President on the subject of mediation, and he did not believe that the Washington Government had yet concerned itself in any movement looking to a cessation of the war. It was learned, however, that the prospects of peace were discussed at length.

Roosevelt as Mediator?

New York, March 31. — Repeated announcements in regard to the proximity of peace are confirmed, it is asserted in a dispatch from a Times correspondent at St. Petersburg, by information from what is called an unimpeachable source, showing that Russia and Japan have selected President Roosevelt as mediator, that negotiations are already in progress, and that the suspension of hostilities may be expected shortly.

After detailing reports as to the negative conditions of peace laid down by Russia and set forth recently in dispatches to the Associated Press, the Times correspondent adds:

"The selection of President Roosevelt as mediator, which was due to Japan's initiative, is regarded here as evidence of excellent discrimination. The Japanese thereby secure a firm friend, who, at the same time, will make it a point of honor to bring the negotiations to a successful close, and who, therefore, would not be likely to have accepted the difficult post of mediator if the Japanese intended to present exorbitant demands."

London, March 30.—8:35 p.m.—Peace talk is prevalent everywhere, but that negotiations have commenced is still positively denied in all official circles here. The foreign office disclaims even having any knowledge of peace proposals. It is quite evident, however, that, while the first definite step may be taken at any moment, an advance further than indicated in the Associated Press dispatches may be postponed indefinitely. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, declared tonight that he had no information in regard to the announcement contained in the St. Petersburg press dispatches that Russia had indirectly made known to the Japanese Government the negative conditions on which peace might be concluded, namely, no cession of territory and no indemnity, leaving Japan to determine whether peace negotiations could be begun upon that basis, but he said unreservedly that the terms then mentioned could not even be considered, and added: "A cession of territory and indemnity are the only possible points negotiable as Japan's ante-bellum demands have already been secured by Japan."

M. Takahashi, the Japanese special financial commissioner, in an interview today, said the war cost between \$250,000,000 and \$300,000,000 the first year, and it is estimated that it will cost \$250,000,000 during the present year. It would be unprecedented in the history of great wars that no indemnity and no territory be given up by the vanquished. While it is beyond my province to discuss terms of peace, I can express my personal opinion. As the war was forced upon Japan, it is not likely that she will waive the right to an indemnity and cession of territory when concluding peace. What indemnity will be demanded I cannot say, but it is my private belief that it will at least cover the expense of the war. If Russia assumes that a continuance of the war will deplete our finances before long, it will be another mistake of judgment on her part. We can maintain a sufficient army in Manchuria to keep out the Russians indefinitely, but this is not the Japanese aim. We are willing to fight the war, but we are not willing to see Manchuria in the hands of the Russians, and an army can be maintained there more economically than in the case of the opposing force. If Russia is agreed to the test of a war of finances, we are willing. The longer the war lasts, the more certain it will be that it will not be resumed."

OYAMA ADVANCES

**Japanese Will Again Work Enveloping
Movement on Enemy.**

St. Petersburg, March 31, 12:25 p.m.—The news from the front today indicates that Field Marshal Oyama has begun a genuine advance of his main army with wings far extended. Heavy reconnaissances are being made against the Russian center with the

Operations at the Front.

Tokio, March 30. — Interest in the war is partly shifting eastward. It is reported that the Russians' plan is to abandon the Island of Sakhalin when the harbors are free of ice. The Russians are strengthening the defensive points north of the Tumen River. Korea in the vicinity of Hunchun, northwest of Plessier Bay, and at points on the railway in the vicinity of Ninguk (40 miles east by north of Kirin). A good highway extends from Plessier Bay northward to Ninguk, which joins the Kirin road.

Harbin, March 30.—Japanese scouting parties are active in endeavoring to pierce the screen of the Russian vanguard posts and develop the disposition and strength of the positions, their attempts at times verging on the nature of reconnaissances in force. A few Japanese batteries, which have pushed far forward, occasionally drop Shimose shells in suspected places. Yesterday there was a smart brush where Gen. Mischenko is stationed. The Japanese pushing forward in a determined endeavor to make a thorough reconnaissance and learn the dispositions in this quarter. The Russians repelled the advance without uncovering their dispositions. There were insignificant losses. Aside from these reconnaissances affairs are generally quiet on the southern positions. Chinese state that heavy Japanese reinforcements are constantly arriving.

RUSH TO NEW GOLD FIELD

**Rich Find Made on a Tributary of
Sixty-Mile River.**

Victoria, B. C., March 31. — News was received yesterday from Dawson of a rich strike on Big Gold Creek, a tributary to Sixty-Mile River. A stampede resulted when the news reached Dawson. Two large nuggets, one weighing over 35 ounces, have been found on Hunker Creek.

RUSS OFFICIALS TERROR-STRICKEN

**Police Expect Another Bloody
Tragedy at Capital.**

ALEXIS AND TREPOFF DOOMED

**A Plot to Assassinate Latter While
Leaving Chancellery Frustrated
by Observant Constable.**

St. Petersburg, March 31, 12:15 p.m.—The authorities continue to find evidence of terrorist activity in St. Petersburg, and in spite of the precautions of the police another tragedy may occur at any moment. The fighting organization is known to have on its condemned list 30 persons, headed by Grand Duke Alexis and Governor-General Trepoft, but the police, although they have arrested several persons with bombs in their possession and have taken many suspects into custody, have been completely baffled in their efforts to discover the campaign of the terrorists. The police thoroughly continue to believe that the central organization of those engaged in the conspiracies are at Gen. G. and in Paris, and that the men arrested in Russia are agents selected to execute the sentences. When arrested these agents invariably are true to their oaths and refuse to divulge anything, no matter to what ordeal they are subjected.

Yesterday the police, by chance, foiled what is believed to have been a plot to kill Governor-General Trepoft. According to the latest details of the affair, a man was observed during the morning lounging at the corner of Great Morskaya street, about a block away from the entrance to General Trepoft's chancellery. The man attracted no attention until he was seen by a policeman, who was standing at every street corner. But last a policeman noticing that the man's face was not familiar to him, approached the supposed messenger with the object of interrogating him. The man thereupon became alarmed, drew a revolver and fired at the policeman, but missed him. The policeman then overpowered his assailant and arrested him.

Almost at the same hour that the legus messenger was being arrested on Great Morskaya street, the police, who have been keeping a sharp lookout at the hotels and lodging houses, discovered several bombs of the terrorist pattern in a trunk belonging to a stranger who occupied a furnished room in a house in Fushki, but who was absent at the time the police searched his apartment. The man was promptly taken into custody when he returned, and last night two individuals who called to see him were also arrested. All the prisoners declined to give any account of themselves. Although the police are reticent, refusing to furnish any information or give the names of the prisoners, the arrested man on Great Morskaya street probably was on the lookout for some mark by which to distinguish General Trepoft's carriage, as several vehicles of the same style are constantly before the Governor-General's chancellery, and when he drives out he is surrounded and leaves in different directions, so that it is almost impossible in the confusion to determine definitely which carriage contains the Governor-General. It is said that General Trepoft a fortnight ago received a letter informing him that this man was unavailing, as he would be killed in his bed.

CANADIANS AND THE LOAN

**Fifteen Millions of Jap Bonds Sub-
scribed in This Country.**

Montreal, March 30.—In connection with the new Japanese loan the Bank of Montreal made a statement today to the effect that it was not generally known that the loan would be offered for subscription in the city until the advertisement appeared in yesterday's morning papers, the interest shown by local investors had been most gratifying, and offerings here were very successful.

It is stated that quite a large portion of the amount subscribed for Montreal has been taken by insurance and trust companies and some of the banks. The entire subscription in Canada is estimated at fifteen millions. The intention is to send these subscriptions to New York, but it is expected that, in view of the large over-subscription, only a portion will be allotted.

Boers for Northwest.

Windsor, Ont., March 31. — Lieut. Berger, who was one of Gen. Devitt's officers in the late Boer war, with several countrymen, passed through here yesterday on his way to the Northwest to make arrangements for about thirty families who intend joining the colony this summer.

Customs Receipts.

Ottawa, March 31.—Customs receipts for the Dominion for nine months ending with March were \$30,916,179, compared with \$30,163,283 for same time last year, an increase of \$752,896. Receipts for the month of March were \$3,694,161.

Q. T. R. Exhibit for Liege.

Montreal, Que., March 31. — Several of the finest pictures which were exhibited by the Grand Trunk at the World's air, St. Louis, and which received the gold medal will be sent by the company to the big exhibition at Liege, Belgium, which opens in May. These pictures are of scenes in the Highlands of Ontario and will be placed in position with the Canadian Government display.

Wants Husband's Body.

Detroit, Mich., March 31.—The widow of Wm. A. Hyatt, who was killed near Hamilton on Wednesday last night after the police to assist her to recover the body from her husband's people, who insist upon burying it. She said that Hyatt deserted her last November, but she has the first claim upon his body and wishes to bury it. The police told her she must apply to the civil courts.

Y. M. C. A. Conference.

Montreal, Que., March 31. — About a hundred delegates from all parts of Canada are expected to attend the Dominion conference of the Y. M. C. A., which opens here on April 5. The conference will extend over three days, the first day being devoted to reports of the association in Quebec and Ontario, and the other two to work throughout the Dominion.

Methodist Minister Suicides.

Buffalo, N. Y., March 31. — Rev. Noyes D. Congdon, a Methodist minister, a patient at the Buffalo State Hospital, committed suicide by hanging himself in his room at the institution early today. Mr. Congdon was 47 years old and had been a sufferer from melancholia for a long time.



THE PRINCESS PATRICIA.
Youngest Daughter of the Duke of
Connaught, Whom Rumor Says Is
To Marry the Spanish King.

THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow—Fair.

London, Friday, March 31.
Sun rises, 6:40 a.m. Moon rises, 4:04 a.m.
Sun sets, 6:43 p.m. Moon sets, 2:44 p.m.
Toronto, March 30—8 p.m.
A few light scattered showers have occurred in Ontario and Quebec, and light snowfalls in Alberta. The weather has remained cool in Manitoba, and has been slightly cooler in most parts of the lake region.
Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 42-46; Edmonton, 34-48; Calgary, 28-36; Qu'Appelle, 18-42; Winnipeg, 24-39; Port Arthur, 28-36; Parry Sound, 24-40; Toronto, 44-56; Ottawa, 28-54; Montreal, 28-40; Quebec, 38-64; St. John, 32-48; Halifax, 30-42.

FORECASTS.

Fair today and on Saturday; not much change in temperature.
TEMPERATURES.
Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.
Winnipeg..... 26 20 Clear
Parry Sound..... 32 26 Cloudy
Toronto..... 40 30 Fair
Ottawa..... 34 30 Fair
Montreal..... 38 34 Clear
Quebec..... 36 36 Clear
Father Point..... 38 34 Cloudy

WEATHER NOTES.

Showers have occurred generally in the Province of Quebec and locally in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, while in the Northwest Territories some local snowfalls have been experienced. Calgary reporting four inches. The weather here comparatively cold in the Northwest.
LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ending at 5 p.m. Thursday were: Highest, 62.5°; lowest, 32° above.

NOTES WILL NOT GO

**No Sale of Liquor to Minors Under
Any Circumstances.**

Toronto, March 31. — One of the amendments which Hon. Mr. Hanna introduced would be made to the liquor license act this session will provide against the sale of liquor to persons under 21 years of age, under any circumstances. The law now allows sale to such persons who have a note from parents or guardians or masters asking that the liquor be sold to them.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS

**Have Left Fiji Island For England by
Way of Canada.**

Winnipeg, Man., March 31. — The Australian cricket team on its way to England left the Fiji Islands this morning, and will reach Vancouver April 12, Winnipeg 15th, sailing from New York on the 18th. The first match in England is set for May 4.

Canadian Pacific officials announce that the Winnipeg Beach line will be extended this year sixteen miles, and completed to Yolande River and Gimli, 35 miles, next season.

Forest Ranger Young has seized 1,000,000 feet of lumber, cut in Swan River district.

The degree of D.D. was conferred on Rev. John Hogg, at the closing exercises in Manitoba College last night.

HON. RICHARD HARCOURT,
Temporary Leader of the Opposition in
the Legislature.

Two Blocks in Chatham
Destroyed by the Flames

Five Firms Put Out of Business by Early Morning
Conflagration, Which Does \$64,000 Damage.

Families Escape by Leaping from Windows

Chatham, March 31. — Two business blocks in Chatham were destroyed by fire early this morning, and as a result five firms were put out of business. The loss will approximate \$64,000. The loss was made up as follows:

S. Jahnke & Sons, \$21,000; J. C. Wanless, hardware, \$15,000; A. H. Patterson, hardware, \$17,000; A. H. Vongunten, jeweler, \$2,500; W. S. Richards, confectioner and baker, \$8,000.

The fire was discovered about 3 a.m. by Will Jahnke, who had just returned from Detroit on the early morning train. Jahnke found the members of his family, who lived over the stores occupied by themselves and J. C. Wanless, hardware, all asleep. In attempting to rouse the family he was overcome by smoke, and in a serious condition. The family escaped by jumping from the windows.

The blocks were all frame and burned rapidly, the fire having attained considerable headway before the arrival of the fire brigade. The burned buildings belonged to Mr. Jahnke and to W. S. Richards. Mr. Richards' buildings are badly damaged, but the Jahnke block is completely gutted. This includes the Jahnke undertaking establishment, and the store of J. C. Wanless.

Owing to the high insurance rates the firms all had small insurances except A. H. Patterson.

The corpse of the late Mrs. Mellady was charred beyond recognition, before it was rescued. It was in Jahnke's undertaking rooms awaiting interment today.

IS ROBLIN GOVT.
ABOUT TO RESIGN?

Winnipeg Tribune Says Crisis Is
On Over the Boundary
Question.

Winnipeg, March 30. — The Tribune tonight says, in part, under black headlines, in an evidently inspired article:

"There is a crisis on in local politics, and most substantial developments may be looked for any day. It will not surprise anyone to see the members of the Local Government hand in their resignations, through the Premier, and vacate their offices."

"It is no secret that the Government, in keeping with universal public opinion, have been deeply aggrieved at the treatment received from the Ottawa authorities with regard to the extension of the boundaries of the Province. The only time in which the boundary could be fixed is now, and yet all appeals all statistics, have utterly failed to move the Ottawa people. Manitoba seems doomed to remain like a postage stamp upon the map of the Dominion, while the western provinces are to have territory to burn, so to speak. For all time, therefore, the Province is to be a little, insignificant territory. This is rank discrimination, for which no reason whatever can be assigned, except, forsooth, it be the reason put forward recently by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's personal organ in Quebec, that Manitoba must be punished because of her national school policy and failure to render justice to the Roman Catholics."

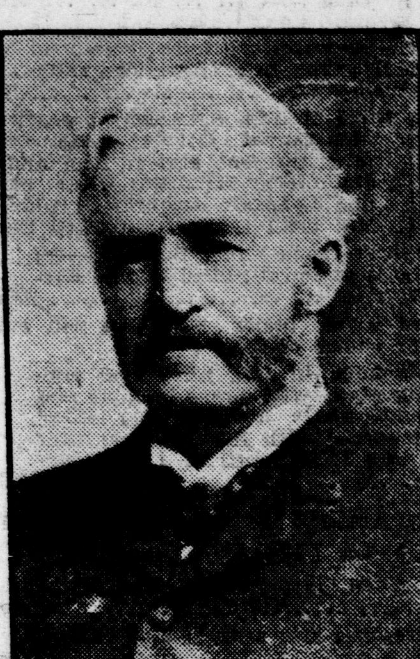
"The Tribune was today informed, upon what it regards as good authority, that Mr. Roblin and his colleagues had recently decided to appeal to the country on the question in order that Ottawa and the rest of the Dominion might realize how deeply the people feel on the question."

Oxford Wins.
London, March 31. — The annual field sports between Oxford and Cambridge took place at the Queen's Club today. Oxford won.

The Grand National.
Liverpool, March 31. — Kirkland won the Grand National steeplechase, of 2,550 sovereigns, a handicap for 5-year-olds and upwards, distance about 4½ miles, today. Napper Tandy was second and Buckyway II. was third. Twenty-seven horses started.

Navigation Opens.
Colchester, Ont., March 31. — Navigation at this end of Lake Erie can now be considered fairly open. A steam barge passed up early this morning and had no trouble in reaching the north end of the lake. The lake is covered with ice, boats seem to have no trouble in working through this.

Performance, Not Promise, Harcourt Tells Whitney



HON. RICHARD HARCOURT,
Temporary Leader of the Opposition in
the Legislature.

**Temporary Leader of Opposition
Gives Some Timely Advice.**

**Warns New Govt. Not to Inter-
fere With Labor Legislation**

**Debate on the Address in Reply to
Speech From the Throne Ends
Without a Division.**

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, March 30.—For the first time in many sessions, the reply to the speech from the throne was today adopted without an amendment being offered by the Opposition or a division taken. The four days' debate was concluded with able addresses from the Opposition's acting leader and the Premier. Mr. Harcourt spoke for over an hour and a half, in his accustomed easy style. While having several graceful compliments to the new Government, he warned them that if they departed from the general lines of policy laid down by their predecessors, their tenure of office would be short. He also promised that when Mr. Ross returned the House would hear the real history of the movement to extend the Province's boundaries, a project for which Mr. Whitney's Government is seeking to appropriate all the credit.

Mr. Whitney, who spoke for less than an hour, again declared that his Government's temperance policy for the present was to strictly enforce the existing laws, amending them where necessary. He stated that so far as he was aware, there existed no correspondence between his predecessors and the Dominion Government relative to the extension of the northern boundaries.

In reply to Mr. Harcourt the Provincial Treasurer stated that he hoped to bring down the public accounts tomorrow, and that the estimates would possibly be laid on the table on Thursday of next week, although the Government had been so busy with other matters that it had not yet given much attention to the estimates.

New Bills Introduced.

Mr. Preston (South Brant) introduced a bill to amend the act concerning prison-made goods.

Mr. Hoyle, seconded by Mr. Duff, introduced a bill to amend the Ontario companies act.

Mr. Patterson (South Waterloo, Conservative), spoke very briefly on the resumption of the debate. He attributed the recent turnover in the Province to the fact that thousands of independent voters had come forward unsolicited to endorse the policy of Mr. Whitney. There was no monopoly by either party of intelligence and integrity, and there was no doubt the interests of the Province would be well looked after. The Government was to be congratulated on its decision to abolish the numbered ballot.

Mr. Harcourt for Business.

Mr. Harcourt, on rising, said that he intended to make his remarks brief, as he thought the public interests were not served by prolonging the debate. He introduced the Parliament of Ontario, where the debate was often concluded in one day. In the English house the tendency was to prolong the debate, and to take from the throne, because there were more momentous questions to be settled. Even in England, however, the day of long orations had passed, and Westminster was but a big committee room, where busy men discussed business questions briefly and concisely.

Mr. Harcourt said he had been astonished that the member for Brant (Mr. Preston) had asked the Government why no legislation had been introduced in the speech from the throne. The member for Brant should have remembered that the task of passing equitable labor legislation demanded of them, and the Conservative side, while a dozen or more on the Liberal side were labor members. In the British Parliament no single labor advocate spoke upon the Conservative side, while a dozen or more on the Liberal side were labor members. The Premier knew too well what awaited him because they failed to give the labor legislation the support of the Government. The member for South Brant (Mr. Preston) had remarked that there was no undue exultation displayed by the new Government. Why should there be? Continued on page 3.

ISSUE OF BONDS FOR TEMISKAMING

**Whitney to Raise \$6,000,000 to
Carry on Work of the Late
Government.**

Toronto, March 31.—The Government has definitely decided upon a direct provincial issue of bonds for \$6,000,000 to meet the loan arranged by the late Administration for the work on and completion of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, and which falls due on May 1. The step which has been taken after serious consideration and several conferences with leading financiers, was, it is understood, favored by the minister of the late Administration who had particular charge of the financing of the road. The necessary legislation will be introduced at the earliest possible moment.

It is also expected that the Government will soon be in a position to know whether or not the G. T. P. are arranging to hold a meeting, as the result of which this question will be disposed of.

Prince Edward Island Wants \$10,000,000 Tunnel

**Big Delegation Asks Govern-
ment for Communication
With Mainland.**

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, March 31. — A delegation from Prince Edward Island waited on the Dominion Government today and asked that the terms of Confederation be carried out by the Dominion Government.

The delegation comprised Hon. Joseph Read, a member of the Provincial Government; Father Burke, J. E. B. McCreedy and Neil McQuarrie. The delegation were appointed at a provincial convention, and represents both political parties. The delegates carried with them to Ottawa resolutions passed by the convention, stating that the terms of confederation, which called for continuous steam communication between the island and mainland, were not being fulfilled, and asking for the fulfillment of the same. The

delegates, while they admit it is for the Dominion to say what should be done to carry out the terms of the union, suggests that to begin with there should be a powerful icebreaker built to assist the crossing of the steamers. This would only be temporary because the delegation holds that the only possible way to maintain continuous communication is by the construction of a tunnel.

Mr. J. J. Haney, the well-known contractor, has made an offer to build the tunnel for \$10,000,000. It would be between Cape Traverse and Cape Tormentine. The distance is about seven and a half miles. Mr. Butler, the assistant chief engineer of the National Transcontinental Railway, accompanied the delegation, and said that sufficient data was in hand to establish the feasibility of a tunnel. Mr. Butler was Mr. Haney's engineer on the Hillsboro bridge. All the island members and senators accompanied the delegation to the Premier and his colleagues, who promised consideration.

General Stoessel Is Blamed For Rout From Mukden

**Governor-General of Port Ar-
thur Bitterly Resents
Surrender.**

Portland, Ore., March 31. — A Verschnin, civil governor of Port Arthur before the surrender of that fortress to the Japanese, passed through Portland en route from the Orient to Russia. Mr. Verschnin bitterly resents the surrender of Gen. Stoessel, which he believes could have been postponed for months at least. When asked what

import attached to these two months, the former governor replied that the surrender, by releasing 100,000 Japanese and an immense amount of heavy artillery, was undoubtedly responsible for the sanguinary defeat of the Russians at Mukden.

The former governor has a poor opinion of Gen. Stoessel, whom he rates as inferior as a commander to several generals beneath him in rank. The two commanders to whom Verschnin gives the credit for resisting the Japanese during the long siege are Generals Smirnov and Kondratenko.