

SAYS ROJESTVENSKY HAS PASSED STRAITS OF FORMOSA WITHOUT SEEING JAPS' SHIPS.

Confidential Agent at Shanghai Sends This Rumor to Russian Minister of Finance--Japanese Minister at Paris Confers With French Foreign Minister Concerning Neutrality.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 21, 2:15 a. m.--The minister of finance has received a telegram from a confidential agent at Shanghai giving a rumor that Vice Admiral Rojestvensky has already passed the Straits of Formosa without encountering Vice Admiral To-

SAIGON, April 20.--Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet is still in Kamranh Bay. The French admiral, Jonquieres, has taken every step to insure neutrality. NEW YORK, April 20.--A despatch to the American from Paris quotes the St. Petersburg despatch to the Matin (newspaper) that Vice Admiral Nebogetoff "has re-entered Sunda Straits on the way to join Rojestvensky in the China sea."

ST. PETERSBURG, April 20.--A despatch from Gushu Pass says the Russians have discovered a turning movement eighty miles northwest of Nanchangfu about thirty miles northeast of Gushu Pass, by two forces, each of 3,000 Chinese bandits, several thousand Japanese cavalry, and twenty-two guns. Kurachengtu is identical with Changchun, the extreme right of Gen. Linvitch's main front, which extends there towards Kirin.

LONDON, April 20.--The British public is only now beginning to realize how much depends on Togo's skilful conduct of the approaching naval contest. Until Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky actually arrived in the Straits of Malacca there was a disposition to ridicule the efforts of the Russian squadron; but now that there is seen to be a growing likelihood of Vice-Admiral Nebogetoff joining Rojestvensky before the fatal struggle opens, interest in the contest is deepening.

LONDON, April 20.--Notwithstanding emphatic protests of some of the newspapers and shrieks of indignation from the Anglo press, British government officials decline to admit that there is anything in the Far Eastern naval situation to cause excitement or to show that it approaches an acute stage.

LONDON, April 20.--Notwithstanding the attitude of the foreign office, a much interested spectator of an intensely dramatic situation which is

approaching a climax in which by some mischance Great Britain might be called to play a part. The announcement in the Paris despatches to the Associated Press that Motono, the Japanese minister there, has called upon Foreign Minister Delcasse with regard to the question of neutrality, has not changed the views of officials at the foreign office, where it was pointed out today that Japan probably had not made a formal or specific protest, but simply desired assurance that France will continue to maintain neutrality and not afford the Russians any advantage inconsistent with France's responsibilities as a neutral.

The foreign office assumes that France most certainly will give such assurance to Japan. The foreign office stated to the Associated Press that it was not at all likely that Great Britain would be requested by Japan to take action in support of any protest. The attitude of the foreign office is that there is not as yet any proof that neutrality has been violated, and it prefers to think that France is preserving neutrality according to her own interpretation, and that Russia would not wilfully involve her ally. It is pointed out that similar charges were brought when Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron was at Nossi Bee, and that there is no reason to believe that there is any more ground for the charges of actual violation of neutrality at Kamranh Bay.

PARIS, April 20.--Acting upon instructions from his government, Dr. Motono, the Japanese minister to France, called on Foreign Minister Delcasse this evening and submitted representations on behalf of Japan concerning the presence of the Russian Pacific squadron in Kamranh Bay. An official communication issued after the meeting states that Minister Motono's action had not the character of a formal protest against an alleged violation of neutrality, but was to obtain assurances that France would observe strict neutrality. Notwithstanding the official version, it is evident that the intention and effect of Minister Motono's action is in the nature of a protest.

Foreign Minister Delcasse responded to the representations of the Japanese minister by pointing out the precautions heretofore taken to preserve neutrality, and the special instructions recently sent to the governor general of Indo-China upon continued care to preserve neutrality. M. Delcasse's as-

urances sought to allay the apprehensions of France which he maintained had not been justified by any specific facts.

The exact terms of Japan's representations have not been disclosed, but it is understood that while the usual courteous form of diplomacy, they set forth that serious apprehensions had been aroused by the stay of the Russian warships in Kamranh Bay and the urgent desire that French neutrality be placed beyond doubt.

The terms of the French response, although not given out, tend to give ample assurances upon all the questions raised. The text of the official communication on the conference is as follows:

"Dr. Motono, minister of Japan, has taken steps to call the attention of the minister of foreign affairs upon the reported presence of Russian vessels in Kamranh Bay. At the ministry of foreign affairs it is stated that Minister Motono's action does not take the character of a formal protest against alleged violation of neutrality by France relative to the Russian fleet. The Japanese minister particularly desired to obtain from the French government, as she had done when the Baltic squadron passed Cherbourg and more recently when it sojourned off Madagascar, some formal assurances that France would continue to observe strict neutrality.

"These assurances evidently seemed more and more indispensable to Japan as the Russian fleet approached the coast of Indo-China and entered the theatre of war. The French government has on frequent occasions pointed out that all precautions have been taken."

LONDON, April 21.--Although the Japanese minister to France, Dr. Motono, has been called from Saigon, French Cochinchina that Admiral Jonquieres, who went to Kamranh Bay in order to assure the observance of French neutrality by the Russian Pacific squadron, has returned to his flagship at Saigon, the despatch conveys no information as to whether or not Rojestvensky's ships are still in Kamranh Bay. Neither is there any definite news regarding the progress eastward of Vice Admiral Nebogetoff's division of the squadron. Whilst the French report that had reached the Sunda Straits is not believed on account of the known slowness of his vessel, it is considered within the bounds of possibility that Rojestvensky's lingering in Kamranh Bay may be due to the conviction that Nebogetoff will soon join him.

BOSTON LETTER.

Much Interest in Equitable

Life Trouble.

Exposure of the Ubero Swindle Not

Surprising--Kings College Man's

Success--Plans for Fine

Church.

BOSTON, April 20.--There is much interest here in the affairs of the Equitable Assurance Society of New York, which has charge of \$400,000,000. As the result of the contest between two factions in the society, the New England policy holders have formed a protective committee, headed by William Whitman, treasurer of the Arlington cotton mills, Lawrence, and a native of New Brunswick. There is a feeling of having a company out of the hands of the warring forces and the trouble has practically paralyzed the life insurance business in many parts of the United States.

The exposure of the Ubero swindle, by which thousands of persons in New England and Canada contributed money aggregating at least \$2,000,000 for the purpose of purchasing stocks and bonds in alleged coffee and rubber plantations in Mexico, did not surprise level-headed business men. The concern has its headquarters in this city and several prominent Boston men who became mixed up in the huge bunco game are in Europe for their health. The head of the company is an ex-convict and was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of two or three years ago.

Application has been made in the Suffolk Co. probate court here for construction of the will of Miriam W. Stedman of Boston, and for instructions as to the final disposition of a trust estate in the hands of George A. Dary, trustee. The last surviving child of the testator having died without issue. Walter Pierce of Antigonish, N. S., and a score or more of persons scattered over the United States, are said to be near relatives and they have been notified that a hearing will be held here on May 4.

Rev. Benjamin W. R. Taylor, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, 125 South St., has been requested to become rector of St. George's Church, Schenectady, N. Y. Rev. Mr. Taylor is a graduate of Kings College, Windsor, N. S., and was formerly rector of the church in Westwood land county. Archbishop Mackenzie was rector of Stedman's.

Rev. Avery A. Shaw, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Brookline, formerly of Windsor, N. S., is arranging for the immediate construction of a \$100,000 church. Rev. Mr. Shaw recently declined a call to a Toronto church at a salary of \$4,000 a year.

Annasa D. Welch, a severe police officer of Chelsea, is dead of cerebro spinal meningitis. He was 41 years old and was a native of Westport, N. S.

The death is announced at Stamford, Conn., of Mrs. Samuel C. Fessenden, widow of a former United States consul at St. John. She was 88 years of age.

Among deaths of former provincials were the following: In Brookline, April 14, Mary A. McCarthy, formerly of St. John; in Cambridge, April 14, Mrs. Harriet C. Fenwick, widow of Ezekiel B. Fenwick, aged 84 years, formerly of St. John; in Somerville, April 13, Ethel B. O'Connor, young child of Thomas J. O'Connor, formerly of St. John; in Brookline, Robert Ropp, formerly of St. John; in Brookline, April 13, Capt. Benjamin Vaughan, aged 64 years, native of St. Martins, N. B.; in New York, April 18, Mrs. Lydia Lar-kins, widow of Amos Larkins, aged 83 years, formerly of Yarmouth, N. S.; in Danbury, Conn., by drowning, Moses D. Johnson, a severe police officer of Mechanics Settlement, N. B.; in Staten Island, N. Y., Capt. Miles Brewster of Hopewell Cape, N. B.

MAY PROCURE BAIT IN COLONIAL WATERS.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., April 20.--The colonial government today issued a series of regulations under which Newfoundland and Canadian vessels fishing in colonial waters, restricting the quantity permitted them and imposing severe penalties for any violations of the rules.

This action by the government is designed to prevent native fishermen from obtaining excess stocks of bait from which they might supply American fishing vessels, excluded from these waters under the new Bond bait act. The regulations are very comprehensive. They include the treaty coast and Labrador and show the government is determined to enforce the anti-American law.

JUDGE CRITICISES JURY'S DECISION.

RIVERHEAD, L. I., April 20.--A jury in the New York state supreme court, which acquitted Frank Chanowsky of the murder of Michael Bianco, was told by Judge Wilnot M. Smith today that its verdict was about the worst miscarriage of justice he had ever known. The jury was out eight hours and a half and was at first evenly divided for conviction or acquittal. One of the witnesses testified that she saw Chanowsky commit the murder, and the other swore they had seen the two men together on the day of the murder near where the body of Bianco was found. The defense was an alibi. Chanowsky was set free.

TENNESSEE NEGROES HANGED A MURDERER.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 19.--A News-Scimitar special from Marianna, Ark., says: "Charged at the action of John Barnett, a negro, in shooting and killing Albert Walsenfeld, another negro, last Sunday, because the latter circulated the report that Barnett was a dangerous man, twenty other negroes employed in a levee camp near Askew, have taken Barnett out and hanged him."

ROSS TO RETIRE FROM ONTARIO POLITICS.

(Special to the Sun.) TORONTO, April 19.--Announcement is made from an authoritative source today that Hon. G. W. Ross, ex-premier, is to retire from the provincial political arena and will go to Ottawa, presumably to the senate. Hon. Richard Harcourt is to take over the leadership.

STRICKEN WITH PARALYSIS.

Mrs. W. R. Sutherland, St. Andrews, Man., writes: "I was stricken with paralysis and loss of the tongue and left leg. For six months I obtained no relief either by doctors' prescriptions or other medicines. My husband got me Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, which has restored my nerves and given me full power of the paralyzed parts. I am strong and well now, thanks to this great medicine."

QUBBEC, April 19.--Hon. A. A. LaSalle, M. C., for 34 years, fled tonight at Ste. Anselme, aged 82 years. He was appointed a legislative councillor in 1882 and formerly represented Dorchester in the legislative assembly.

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"DON'T DODGE"

Slang expression; well, he used it, Used it in the Master's name! Does it matter one iota, In what way the message came?

Wide unfurled, he held God's standard, Over every form and creed, Where the strength of sin abounded, Christ could save, and great the need. Save from sin, and not in sinning,-- Earthly standard wide unfurled, Waving as the Gospel message, Over a sin-stricken world.

Strong expressions; some objected, Sin as sin, was brought to light, Why should modesty grow callous, Where it knows the truth is right?

Local papers tell the story-- Sin as sin, is daily news, And the theatre proclaimeth, Truths the preachers must not use.

Let them shock the ears of hearers, Who have heard the same elsewhere, And because in different places, Never seemed to heed, or care.

May I ask a simple question, Is he serving God, or man? If the latter, then be careful, On whose words you place a ban.

Let the Holy Spirit grieving, When He's spoken through His own, Leave us to face all life's struggles, And the bridge of death--alone.

Christ's atonement saves the sinner, God's own power keeps him true, And the "Comforter" descending, Guides and tells him what to do.

This, the "Gospel message" spoken, First salvation, second "power", From on high to hearts descending, Guiding, keeping, every hour.

In the depths of sin's strong whirlpool, In life's storms though fierce and wild, And in sorrows, midnight hour, God will guard and keep His child.

Free from sin, amidst the whirlpool, Safe, though storms are fierce and wild, Sorrow's hours bring His comfort, Just because you are His child.

What if audience quickly scatter, Speak His message, firm and true-- As the Holy Spirit guideth, With results, you've sought to do.

What if Churches strongly differ? God's Word ever standeth true, Preach the Gospel as it's written, What are men's ideas to you.

Let His Word uphold the standard, Overlook all forms and creeds, 'Tis the hearts of men, He longs for, 'Tis the lives of men, He needs.

Saved, from what, if not from sinning? For the "sting of death" is sin. May I ask another question, Where does "victory" come in?

After death has claimed its victim, Note the present tense, is used, "Giveth us," St. Paul has written, Is it left for us to choose?

"Victory of death" is future, When death itself shall cease to be, If the "sting of death" remaineth, Where is present victory?

"What is truth?" was asked by Pilate, We may ask the same today, Christ, Himself, proclaims the answer "I am, the Life, the Truth, the Way." --G. A.

BALKAN WAR CLOUD.

VIENNA, April 20.--The condition of affairs in the Balkan States is causing much uneasiness in official circles here. The hope of a comparatively peaceful spring which has prevailed is growing less and it is declared that the reform work has not been conclusively proved to have good or lasting results. In Zagoricham, province of Koritz, early this month, Greeks fell upon and killed more than 120 Bulgarians and in Kuananovo, province of Uskub, Turks have killed several Serbians. Thus it is seen that all nationalities and Christians and Mohammedans continue fighting each other while Turkey seems unable to control affairs or give protection to the people. Formerly there was only the passive resistance of Turkey to contend with, but now the situation has been aggravated by the growing bitter hatred of the various nationalities against each other.

Went Over Shore Line.

Chief Engineer Mountain of the railway commission, returned last evening from his tour of inspection of the New Brunswick Southern railway. To the Sun, he said that he was very well satisfied with the condition of the road and did not intend to recommend that it be tied up. Mr. Mountain made the trip in a special, commencing his journey about nine o'clock yesterday morning, and arriving at St. Stephen at two in the afternoon. Between thirty and forty stops were made, and the bridges carefully examined. Mr. Mountain said that the recommendations which had been made by Assistant Engineer Simmonds about a year ago had been satisfactorily carried out, and the road had been greatly improved thereby. He would make some further recommendations in his report, which when given effect to would still further increase the stability and efficiency of the road. What these recommendations would be he could not divulge, until the report had been submitted to the commissioners. At St. George Mr. Mountain was waited upon by a deputation of four gentlemen, Sutton Clark, James O'Neill, Charles Thompson and Rev. Mr. Helms who set forth their views as to what improvements were required. He promised them that their suggestions would receive the consideration of the commissioners, as he would embody them in his report, together with his own expression of opinion, which would be favorable. Mr. Mountain said the deputation were very fair and moderate in their demands.

Mr. Mountain will leave this morning for Salisbury to inspect the Harvey and Salisbury line, after which he will rejoin the commission. Along with Mr. Mountain went Superintendent McPeake and Engineer Boucher of the Shore Line. Mr. McPeake received the impression that

Mr. Mountain was pleased with the condition of the road. He had expressed surprise at finding it in such good shape at this, the very worst season of the year. It is probable that the Sun that Mr. Simmonds' suggestions were more than carried out. He had advised for one thing, 60,000 new ties, and 75,000 were put down. More than this, 150,000 others will be placed during the present year. Mr. McPeake is trying to get some new cars from Rhodes, Curry, who are pretty busy just now. He is going to Moncton today to buy, if possible, a heavy locomotive from the I. C. R., and is about to place orders for a steam shovel and a steam plow.

Mr. McPeake says that next winter the road will not be tied up for weeks at a time if he can help it. Mr. Boucher has been in the employ of the company for only a week or so, and is now engaged in surveying for the proposed new line from Lepreau to Pennfield. The present line runs on a northerly curve between these two points, the distance being fourteen miles. It is proposed to build a new line more to the south, which will take in New River Beach. This new line will be three miles shorter and will run through a better section of country, opening up for tourists a way to the magnificent New River Beach, and bringing the railway more business from the fishing districts. When the survey is completed a decision as to the advisability of the new line will be made at once, and if it is to be built work will start right away. This new line will call for a rearrangement in the placing of the four steel bridges now ready in Montreal, and they will be set up till the final decision is reached. Meanwhile Mr. McPeake has a gang of men employed at the Bonny River quarry getting out granite for the work.

Proposed Harbor Extension And West Indies Service.

A meeting of the council of the harbor of trade was held yesterday. It was called by the president, who gave the council a report from the recent delegation to Ottawa. It has already been stated that President Schofield, Mayor George Robertson and Mr. H. Estabrook discussed the question of dredging with the government. They found Mr. Hyman, the acting minister of public works, ready to discuss the subject freely and were pleased with the spirit shown by him. Mr. Hyman explained the situation as regards dredges, pointed out that the government had not a sufficient outfit for the work to be done, but stated that it would be possible to hire equipment from Portland or Boston.

The minister desired to know more definitely what the proposed dredging would probably cost, and what amount of work and outlay the city proposed to invest in the undertaking. These were questions to which neither the mayor nor the other delegates could give an exact and definite answer. But it will be an easy thing to prepare an estimate of the amount of work ready to discuss the subject.

The idea in the mind of the mayor and the shipping people is not exactly the same as that discussed a year ago, when the C. P. R., the federal government and the city were to be parties to a three-cornered agreement. The scheme now submitted is more simple. It is proposed that the city build a wharf on the north side of the Sand Point slip, having sheds and other equipment with accommodation for

the largest ship likely to come here. An amount equal to the annual charge for interest and sinking fund is to be levied on all traffic handled at the city wharves. This plan has, it is understood, received the support of the Shipping Federation, and is thought to be acceptable to all the parties interested. At all events the city council committee will hear the board of trade people on the subject. After that it will be better known what is the opinion of city hall.

WEST INDIA SERVICE.

The energetic president of the Board of Trade discussed other things at Ottawa. He had an earnest interview with the ministers chiefly concerned in the subject of the West India service. It has already been announced that two tenders were submitted by Pickford and Black for this line, one on the basis of the continuance of the existing double port arrangement, the other leaving out St. John and some of the smaller southern ports. The latter mentioned tender was of course somewhat lower. Naturally the council of the St. John Board supports the action of the president in protesting against this change. The president, John Seeley and D. J. McLaughlin were named a committee to draw up a statement on the subject for transmission to Ottawa if that shall be found necessary. Meanwhile it is probable that the matter will be discussed amicably with the Halifax tenderer, who is not known to favor the exclusive Halifax route. When he tendered it was not known how many other offers there might be, and whether some of them might not be for a single southern port.

So far as the Sun can learn, there is not much anxiety among business men here respecting the proposed Cuba service to Halifax and Montreal. Cuba is pretty well tied up with the United States in trade relations, and the prospects of Canadian business with that island are not thought to be good.

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