EXITACLE From His Great Toronto Speech.

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VOL. XLVII., NO. 7.

# The Trawler Investigation

Coroner's Jury at Hull Under Advice Brings in an Open Verdict.

The Russian Ships Were Within Speaking Distance When Firing Began.

Wounded Engineer Thought He Was Witnessing a Sham Fight.

Hull, Eng., Nov. 2.—"That George Henry Smith and William Leggett were, at about 1:30 a. m. on October 22nd, while fishing with trawls aboard the British steam trawler Crane, with board of trade marks exhibited and regulation lights burning, killed by shots fired without warning or provocation from certain Russian war vessels at a distance of about a quarter of a mile." This is the text of the jury's verdict at the coroner's inquest on the fisherat the coroner's inquest on the fisher-men, victims of the North Sea tragedy. At the request of the British government represented by the Earl of Dysart, solic-itor of the treasury, this conservative The government asked the jury not to The government asked the jury not to find a verdict of willful murder or man-slaughter because "delicate questions are going which should not be made more difficult, and they thought it better not to let any one think they had prejudiced the case before having heard both sides."

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* "Sweeping The Dominion"

Ottawa, Nov. 2.—From all parts of the province of Ontario reports of a great Conservative sweep of victory to-morrow are to hand. Liberals a few weeks ago were very confident that, by reason of the gerrymander of last year and wiping out of six Conservative seats, that they would be able to divide the province, but feeling is running so strong against the government that, instead of 57 seats being taken by the Conservatives to-morrow, it will likely run 60, and possibly one or two more. The Conservative party counts upon winning 20 in the province of Quebec, which will mean a little better for the Conservatives than an even break in the two provinces combined.

Mr. Blair's attitude on the

Ontario and the Eastern provinces may confidently be relied upon to give Mr. Borden a majority of ten or twelve.

The Free Press published telegrams from the different parts of Oanada to-night, from which it is not possible for the Liberals to derive any great amount of satisfaction. For instance, the Manitoba Free Press says Brandon is the only sure seat to the Liberals in Manitoba; the St. John Globe claims ten seats for the Liberals, but Mr. Emmerson, in his message, does not hazard a guess. He remarks: "Our friends are confident everywhere of making gains, and my best judgment conncides with that view." Mr. Fielding thinks in Nova Scotia the government majority will be maintained, but in the Island he can only see two seats coming to can only see two seats coming t 

perts on explosives and the trawlers To the verdict the jury added the fol-To the verdict the jury added the following: "On this occasion, probably the most momentous in the annals of the British Empire, the jury would record their appreciation of the efforts made by the government's interested to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion of the matter, which we feel has no parallel in the history of the world."

St. George's hall, a large auditorium which had been specially fitted up for the occazion, was inadequate to accommodate the crowds that wished to hear the evidence. The interest was intense and there was some excitement but no demonstration occurred. A great number of persons gathered in the vicinity of the building to await the verdict and the hall inside was filled. The British government, the board of trade, the owners of the fishing fleet and the relatives of the deceased and wounded fishermen were represented by counsel, but the Russian government did not participate.

The proceedings occupied only abo The proceedings occupied only about three hours. The testimony consisted of medical evidence by which it was proven that the death of Smith and Leggett was the result of shell and machine gun wounds. Then an expert identified fragments of shells by private marks, which he said were undoubtedly Russian, and then the stories of the captains and mates of the trawlers were told. mates of the trawlers were told.

These latter related that while they were engaged in their regular work, the ships of the second Pacific fleet in two squadrons, emerged suddenly from the haze, and throwing the glare of their searchlights on the Gamerock fleet, without warning and disregarding the green lights, the fishermen's signal, and though within actual speaking distance of one vessel, commenced a cannonade, which the fishermen, at first not realizing the danger, enjoyed, thinking it was a sham fight. The firing lasted half an hour.

To each of these witneses was put the

To each of these witneses was put the vital question regarding the presence of a foreign vessel or torpedo boat. Each with equal positiveness denied that at any time preceding the firing was a Japanese, British or other foreign torpedo boat near to or accompanying the fishing fleet. It was also stated that there were no Japanese among the crews and that none of the trawlers carried arms of any description.

One of the skippers, replying to a question by the coroner, said that during the five weeks that he was in the North Sea he had not seen any warships will that night. This closed the evidence. The representative of the treasury them made the suggestion as to the mature of the verdict, to which the coro-

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