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TWENTIETH YEAR

THE WAR CLOUD IS AGAIN LOWERING OVER THE FAR EASTERN HORIZON.

GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA

Appears Likely to Come to Blows Yet Over the Question of the Open Door.

Britain's Difficulties With the Chinese Foreign Office Due to the Coercive Tactics of Russia—Britain Must Lead in Reaching an Agreement Respecting the Future of China—Threatening Situation Which Must Be Faced.

London, March 9.—The opinion of the press regarding the situation in China is not unanimous. Some of the newspapers make no comment on the subject. The Standard, a leading Conservative organ, with its ineradicable Russophobia bias, congratulates Lord Salisbury on his uncompromising firmness, and rejoices that he is determined to vindicate British interests. It is said that unless the hint of retaliatory measures is a mere brutum fulmen, it must be inferred that Minister Macdonald's ultimatum will be followed by something stronger than words if the occasion arises. In the Taung-Li-Yamen has not been refused a British demand when it believed it was made in earnest, and it is not likely to do so in this instance. The paper adds: "It is useless to disguise the truth. Our difficulties with the Taung-Li-Yamen are mainly due to the coercion of Russia, who is engaged in what seems to be the deliberate policy of rendering herself supreme in Northern China and attempting to exclude Great Britain therefrom. The real question is whether the time has not come for some definite settlement which will end this process. Russian intrigue has led to this scramble for China, which it was the avowed policy of Great Britain, if possible, to prevent. Partition is actually taking place under our eyes."

Britain Holds the Key. The paper refers to the Italian and Belgian demands, and declares that Japan also is keenly watching, "but the key of the situation is in our hands. The powers will be ready to follow our lead. It is necessary for all the powers interested to come to an agreement respecting the future of China. The issue has been avoided chiefly because of the natural reluctance of the great powers to discuss in direct speech, possibly revealing irreconcilable antagonisms, but, fortunately, the danger may be, it will only gather intensity by postponement."

The Graphic is hopeful. The Graphic adheres to the belief that an amicable arrangement will result from the negotiations which, it says, it knows have been resumed. "We are sure," says your consideration, and the consideration of the members of the Dominion Alliance, who believe in prohibition as the most efficient means of suppressing the evils of intemperance, that no force would be served by forcing upon the people measures recently adopted by the vote to have the support of more than 23 per cent. of the electorate.

Neither would it serve any good purpose to enter here into further controversy on the many incidental points discussed before us. My object is simply to convey to you the conclusion that in our judgment the expression of public opinion recorded at the polls in favor of prohibition STEEVES GIVEN 15 YEARS.

RUSSIA POURING IN TROOPS. With 50,000 Men in Port Arthur and Tally-Ho. Vancouver, B. C., March 9.—Arrivals from China by the Empress of India say the Russian Government is pouring more troops into Port Arthur and Tally-Ho, under the pretence that the force now garrisoning these places is insufficient to meet the apparent discontent of the inhabitants of Liaotung Peninsula, who have within the last two months risen against the Russians in thirteen different townships and districts. Further, no less than 10,000 men have landed at Port Arthur, and more are being sent, making the full strength of the garrison some 20,000, in addition to the garrison of 15,000 men for Port Arthur and 5000 for Tally-Ho.

A FRENCH VIEW. Italy's Endeavor Causes France No Surprise, and Competition Affords a Guarantee. Paris, March 9.—The Journal says: "All of the powers have established themselves in China in a manner calculated to take advantage of the situation in the near future. Each wants a portion of China—Italy, Belgium, Germany, and the United States. The English, who are there as well, wish to be the sole masters. Italy's endeavor causes France no surprise or displeasure. Our diplomacy is not to put any difficulties in Italy's way, seeing that all of the European nations are holding positions in China. This becomes our guarantee that the middle empire has opened for all. The competition of the powers at"

Continued on Page 4.

Another Grab in Prospect. Montreal, March 9.—(Special.)—It is generally understood here in financial circles that a new board, composed of Hon. L. A. Forget and other street railway magnates, will soon get control of the Royal Electric Company.

EXHIBITIONISTS ARE THROWN DOWN AT OTTAWA

What Will They Do Now That Sir Wilfrid Has Coddly Cast Them Aside?—The Premier's Letter to Ald. Spence, Who Says That the Liberals Are Not Entitled to Power Under Sir Wilfrid's Principle.

Ald. F. S. Spence, Toronto: Dear Mr. Spence.—When the delegation of the Dominion Alliance waited upon the Government last fall to ask as a consequence of the plebiscite the introduction of prohibitory legislation, they based their demand upon the fact that, on the total of the vote cast, there was a majority in favor of the principle of prohibition. The exact figures of the votes recorded were not at that time accurately known, but the official figures, which we have now, show that on the question put to the electors 278,487 voted yes and 294,511 voted no. As the official figures had been made public, it was contended by some of the opponents of prohibition that the margin of difference between the majority and minority was so slight that it practically constituted a tie, and there was, therefore, no occasion for the Government to pronounce either one way or the other. The Government does not share that view. We are of the opinion that the fairest way of approaching the question is by the consideration of the total vote cast in favor of prohibition, leaving aside altogether the vote recorded against it.

In that view of the question, the record shows that the electorate of Canada, to which the question was submitted, comprised 1,238,849 voters, and of that number less than 23 per cent., or a trifle over one-fifth, affirmed their conviction in the principle of prohibition. If we remember that the object of the plebiscite was to give an opportunity to the voters to hear the case for prohibition, who believed that the people were with them, and that if the question were voted upon by itself, without any other issue which might detract from its consideration, a majority of the electorate would respond and thus show the Canadian people prepared and ready for its adoption, it must be admitted that the expectation was not justified by the event.

On the other hand, it was argued before us by yourself and others, that as the plebiscite campaign was carried out by the friends of prohibition without any expenditure of money and without the usual excitement of political agitation, the vote recorded in favor of it was comparatively a large one. This statement I did not then controvert, nor do I controvert it here and now. I would simply remark that the honesty of the vote did not suffer from the absence of those causes of excitement, and that even if the totality of the vote might have been somewhat increased by such cause its moral force would not have been made any stronger. I do not venture to say your consideration, and the consideration of the members of the Dominion Alliance, who believe in prohibition as the most efficient means of suppressing the evils of intemperance, that no force would be served by forcing upon the people measures recently adopted by the vote to have the support of more than 23 per cent. of the electorate.

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CHANGE FOR MR. KLING. The Distinguished Patient Removed to a More Cheery Room—Eld. Stewart Well. New York, March 9.—Mr. Kling was removed at 11 o'clock this morning to another room in the hotel. The new room is larger and has a more cheerful outlook. It is hoped the change will do the patient good. Mr. Kling is very much improved and took a breakfast of beef tea, oysters and eggs.

Josephine's Body Cremated. After the private funeral services of Josephine Kling the body was taken to the Fresh Pond crematory and incinerated.

Fember's Turkish Bath at 129 Yonge-street. Federal Life Assurance Company. The shareholders of the Federal Life Assurance Company held their annual meeting at the head office in Hamilton on Tuesday last. The report of the directors showed that the new accepted business for the year consisted of 1381 applications for \$2,114,252.78 applications were either rejected or held over for further information.

Heaver Fling is the only "Gentleman's Chew." Cigars by the Box at McConnell's. The Reina Victorias, regular \$2.50, while they last \$1.50 per box of 50. Corner Colborne and Leader-lane.

Cook's Turkish and Russian Baths. Bath and Bed \$1.00, 204 King St. W.

To-day's Program. Legislature, 3 p.m. H. Company, Q. O. R., no-coms' dinner at 8 p.m. R. C. Y. C. dinner at Webb's, 8 p.m. Victorian Order of Nurses meet in Capri-Mock Trial at 36 Elm-street, Toronto. Toronto Humane Society, regular meeting, 4 p.m. Literary Society meeting at Varsity, 8 p.m. "Alabama" at the Princess, 2 and 8 p.m. R. C. Y. C. dinner at the Toronto, 8 p.m. Field's Minstrels at the Grand, 8 p.m. The Public Library Board meets at 8 p.m. Mock Trial at 36 Elm-street, Toronto. Ontario Society of Artists, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Armeda Tea has the honor.

A SURE CURE FOR GRIPPE. Dr. Evans' Laxative Grippe Capsules cure Grippe in a few hours. First dose given rectally; 25 cents, all druggists.

Did you ever try the Top Barrel?

THE POINTERS TO WILFRID.



JACK CANUCK: Never mind this log, my friend, I find it useful to break "deals" on occasionally. Just tackle that wood pile.

THIS IS THE DAY OF DOOM WILLIAMS MAY YET BE ALIVE ONE TANGLE STRAIGHTENED

For Cordelia Viau and Sam Parslow, Who Murdered the Former's Husband. Parslow Tried to Break Jail. Saved a Bar Off His Cell and Got Out into the Corridor, but Was Captured.

Montreal, March 9.—(Special.)—All eyes are now turned upon the little town of St. Scholastique, where to-morrow Sam Parslow and Cordelia Viau will give up their lives to expiate one of the most cold-blooded murders ever committed in Canada.

Shortly after midnight Parslow attempted to escape, having succeeded in sawing off one of the bars of his cell door, but he was quickly overpowered and returned to his apartments. It is believed that one of the murderer's relatives had given him the instruments used when the attempt to escape was made.

When Williams left Toronto in 1893 he went straight to Denver, Colorado. There he entered into the employ of a coal and iron firm and worked up and down the Pacific coast for several months. He was well thought of and wrote Mr. Wallbridge that he intended going into the firm.

He Struck a Snap. During his travels, however, Williams struck a snap in about four miles of placer mining land near Gold Hill in Oregon.

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RUBBER KIBBS ALL SIZES TUBING The Toronto Rubber Co., Limited ONE CENT

THE NAVAL ESTIMATES

Mr. Goschen Explains the Unique Circumstances in the Commons.

BRITAIN MUST BE PREPARED

Wei-Hai-Wei to Be Made a Secondary Naval Base at an Expense of £1,300,000.

Two Ironclads, Two Armored Cruisers and Three Smaller Cruisers to Be Built—4250 Men to Be Added to the Personnel, Making the Strength 110,040—When the Other Great Powers Reduce Their Naval Strength Britain Will Do Likewise.

London, March 9.—In introducing the navy estimates in the House of Commons to-day the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Right Hon. George J. Goschen, said: "Never has estimates been submitted under more unique circumstances. Ahead was the conference for international disarmament, which behind were the incidents of last November, and when a comparison of the naval strength of the various countries was in everybody's mouth, the most striking confidence was shown in British preparedness to meet all emergencies. The Commons, however, be further said, were disturbed by the allegation that Great Britain was preparing with a particular purpose for aggressive action, but the idea had never entered the mind of the Government. He then proceeded to detail the naval program.

Expense on Wei-Hai-Wei. Mr. Goschen said Her Majesty's Government proposed to make Wei-Hai-Wei a secondary naval base, pointing out that it would be a most valuable anchorage, and of the greatest importance in any operations in Chinese waters, and adding that it was proposed to expend £1,300,000 on Wei-Hai-Wei during the present year and £1,500,000 next year. He said that the personnel of the navy for the coming year would be increased by 4250 men, totalling 110,040, at a cost of £7,474,000. Comparing the pay of the personnel, Mr. Goschen said that while Great Britain only paid £7,000,000 and France £8,000,000, Russia only paid £4,450,000. He could not understand how it was, but that was all the estimates revealed.

The Shipbuilding Program. Referring to shipbuilding, he said the coming program had been framed after consideration of the program of the other powers. A study of the program, he pointed out, was not reassuring. The United States, he said, had announced that Italy and Germany had under construction 685,000 tons of warships, or 225,000 tons more than was contained in the present estimates. Therefore this had forced the Government to draw up a new program. Excluding last year's supplementary program, it provided for two ironclads, two armored cruisers and three smaller cruisers at a specially high price, adding that it was £500,000, and the total under the shipbuilding vote, including the liabilities for last year's original and supplementary program.

The Smart Residence Sold. Mr. W. H. M. Masey, president of the Massey-Harris Company, has purchased the beautiful residence of the late Mrs. Emily Smart, on the northeast corner of Jarvis and Isabella-streets. The price has not been made public, but it is believed to be £100,000. The sale was concluded on Monday.

Good Luck for John. John Doyle of the Jersey Hotel, born in Toronto, March 10, 1854.

Carlisle Forbidden to Vote. London, March 10.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times says: "The Carlisle to take part in the forthcoming elections to the new Cortes."

Just About the Same. Meteorological Office, Toronto, March 9. (8 p.m.)—High pressure continues over the Northwest, but any further rise in extreme temperatures. The pressure is also above normal from the lakes to the Atlantic. There is a low pressure area developing over the West and Southwest States, which is likely to bring unsettled weather shortly to the lake district.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 38-48; Kamloops, 32-48; Calgary, 10-12; Battleford, 4 below-10; On'Appelle, 2-20; Winnipeg, 2-24; Port Arthur, 14-28; Harry Sound, 8-30; Toronto, 22-34; Ottawa, 8-22; Montreal, 10-22; Quebec, 2-22; Halifax, 18-38.

Probabilities. Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Mostly fair to-day, with no decided change in temperature. Ottawa Valley, Upper and Lower St. Lawrence—Fair; no decided change in temperature. Gulf—Fair; no decided change in temperature. Maritime—Fair to cloudy, with light to moderate winds; light local falls of snow or sleet; not much change in temperature. Lake Superior—Fair to cloudy; not much change in temperature. Lake Ontario—Fair to cloudy; not much change in temperature. Lake Erie—Fair to cloudy; not much change in temperature. Lake St. Clair—Fair to cloudy; not much change in temperature.

Oak Hill Clothiers, 115 King-street east, are showing a new range in new York one-dollar to five dollars, to fit long-legged, short-legged, slim-legged, fat-legged, all sorts of-legged men. There are all sorts of patterns, in rough or smooth cloths.

Steamship Movements. From: M. H. Meier...New York...Bremen California...Liverpool...Halifax Ems...New York...Boston New England...Quebec...Boston Ag. Victoria...Constantinople...New York Ottawa...Hamburg...New York Menominee...London...New York Furness...Glasgow...New York Solingen...London...New York St. John City...Halifax...London Asryan...New York...Halifax Halifax City...London...Halifax Britannic...Quebec...New York

DEATHS. BLIZARD—At her late residence, 225 Huron-st., on March 8, Lucy T. the wife of William H. Blizard. Funeral from above address Saturday, March 11, at 2:30 p.m., to St. Philip's Church, thence to St. James' Cemetery. PORD—At 303 Marion street, on Thursday, March 9, Mrs. Maria Ford, in her 68th year.

Fell Downstairs. David Wilson, who is about 65 years of age and makes his home at the Victor Mission, fell down a flight of stairs last night in that institution and sustained a serious scalp wound.