

REPORT THAT FLEETS HAVE GIVEN BATTLE.

Russian Fleet Undivided and Officers and Men Ready to Die for Fatherland.

Togo Will Try to Torpedo Russian Ships Before Attacking Them.

Chamberlain Says Anglo-Jap Alliance Would Secure Peace in the Far East.

A London cable: No confirmation has yet been received in London of the report from Batavia, Java, of a naval battle off the Anambas Islands, and as there is no cable connection with these islands it is difficult to see how Batavia could have got such news before Singapore.

A despatch to Lloyd's from Singapore to-day practically confirms the Associated Press first information regarding the composition of the Russian squadron which passed there April 8. Lloyd's agent says it was composed of seven battleships, two armored cruisers, five unarmored cruisers, three converted cruisers, seven torpedo-boat destroyers, 17 steamers and hospital ships and a tug.

FLEET NOT DIVIDED.

Russian Officers and Men Ready to Die for the Fatherland.

A New York report: A St. Petersburg despatch to the Times says that a despatch received there stating that Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet is not dissuaded, evokes the greatest sensation at the Admiralty, where the earlier reports that the battleships were separated from the cruisers caused anxiety.

AN EXPERT OPINION.

Togo Will Harass the Russian Fleet Before He Attacks.

A New York report: A London despatch to the World says: Rear-Admiral Gayley, a distinguished naval strategist and expert, writes in the London Daily Telegraph: "We may expect that the whole passage of the Russian fleet to the north through the China Sea, will be marked by continual harassing by torpedo boats, whose supreme object will be to wear down the Russian fleet, ship by ship, and when the supreme moment arrives for action between the battle fleets, if such an event ever does take place, Admiral Togo's superiority may be even greater than at present."

may possibly develop into an engagement. It is reported that the Russians have arranged the convicts of the Island of Sakhalin, promising money and freedom to those fighting bravely. This, it is added, brings the garrison of Sakhalin up to a total of 3,000 men. It is doubted, however, that Russia will attempt to hold the Island.

A Washington report: Field-Marshal Oyama plans to capture Vladivostok before the Russian fleet, or any part of it, can reach that port. This information has been received here through trustworthy channels. For the Japanese the capture of Vladivostok would be a trump card. The thawing of the soil and the mudiness of the roads is a factor now working heavily against them. But if they succeed they will have checkmated a possible Russian move — the assemblage of a part of their fleets at this strong base, and subsequent harassment of Japanese shipping and raids on transportation.

In laying out their strategy the Japanese have tried to foresee all possible contingencies. Among these is the chance that Rojestvensky may be able with a part of his fleet to escape Togo's ships and make his way to Vladivostok. Even if there should be a pitched battle between the squadrons and the Japanese were decidedly the victors in the engagement, a considerable number of Russian ships might make their way to the naval base, and, by strengthening the defence there, make it a much harder nut to crack afterward. If the land forces of Japan can capture Vladivostok during the coming three or four weeks or before the survivors of Rojestvensky's fleet can get there, a great point will have been scored.

The Japanese believe they can take Vladivostok during the coming month. Almost any time now may come news of the arrival of General Kawamura's army before the city. It is well known that Oyama is making a flank movement in force toward Kiam and to the eastward thereof. This force is supporting Kawamura, who should now be near the city.

GREATER IN TONNAGE.

Japanese Fleet Outranks Russian in Guns Also.

A Tokyo cable: All the heavy armament of the Japanese battle-ships recently renewed. It is estimated that the strength of the respective fleet is as follows:

Russian — Seven battleships with a total of 87,244 tons, and two armored cruisers, 14,724 tons. Their principal guns consist of 24 12-inch, 4 10-inch, and 8 8-inch. Japanese — Five battleships, of 60,800 tons, and eight armored cruisers of 73,680 tons. Their principal guns consist of 20 12-inch, 1 10-inch and 30 8-inch.

Prime Minister Katsura and General Teruchi, Minister of War, held an important conference to-day with the chiefs of several departments.

Russian Fleet Sighted.

A Singapore cable: The Russian fleet was in latitude 8 degrees north, longitude 108 degrees 5 minutes east at noon April 11. The peninsular and Oriental steamer Xubin, which has arrived here, reports having passed no less than forty-two vessels there. They were steering north-northeast at a speed of eight or ten knots.

TOO MANY DAMAGE SUITS.

Municipalities Want Their Liability Defined.

Toronto, April 13.—The first session of the Western Ontario Good Roads Association annual convention was held in the York County Council Chambers yesterday afternoon. About one hundred delegates, composed largely of municipal Councilors, were present. Mr. James Graham, President of the association, opened the convention with a concise address, in which he described the general intelligence and awakening interest in the subject of good roads now apparent throughout the Province. He called special attention to the efforts of the Elgin Municipal Association in advocating amendments to the municipal act, which would protect the municipalities against leading to a large outlay for damages and court costs.

Mr. K. W. McKay, of St. Thomas, editor of the Municipal World, read a paper on the "Civil liability of municipal corporations for damages caused by accidents on the highway." The Elgin Municipal Association asked the Good Roads Association to assist them in removing this civil liability by amending sub-section 1 of section 406 of the municipal act to read as follows: "Every public road, street, bridge and highway, shall be kept in repair by the corporation, and in default of the corporation to keep in repair, the corporation shall be liable to any punishment provided by law."

The afternoon session was devoted to the discussion of the amendment, which was finally passed by a unanimous vote. A large delegation will wait on the Government at 11 a. m. to-day.



COUNT VON BUELOW, German Chancellor.

The evening session was given over to the Committee on Resolutions, which discussed amendments for the municipal, assessment and ditches and watercourses acts.

M. H. W. Cook, of Haldon County asked that the time be extended to one year in which County Councils may take advantage of the privileges of securing Government assistance in permanent road improvement.

Hon. Nelson Monteith, in a short address, expressed his sympathy with the members of the association in their work and hoped they would take vigorous action in improving the rural roads and in beautifying the country.

NEW HUMAN BLOOD TEST.

New Yorker Announces Important Discovery to Medical Society.

Bridgeport, Conn., April 17.—Dr. Justin de Lisle, of New York City, explained to the members of the Fairfield County Medical Society, at its 13th annual meeting in the Atlantic Hotel to-day, the facts of a newly discovered test for determining absolutely whether or not bloodstains on garments, wood, hatches or on other things are human or animal stains.

The tests are made by washing the stains with a saline solution, and the washings are reserved. After the washing has been completed a few drops of serum formed by the admixture of human blood with that of some animal are added, and the mixture is then set aside in a warm place for twenty-four hours. If the mixture assumes a cloudy appearance, or there is precipitation at the bottom of the test tube, the stains are actually human blood, Dr. de Lisle declared.

BRAVE YOUNG LADY.

Miss Annie Cameron Receives Testimonial for Saving Boy's Life.

A Niagara Falls, Ont., report: The honorary testimonial of the Royal Canadian Humane Society was presented to Miss Annie Cameron on Monday night by Mayor Phemister. The ceremony took place in the City Council chamber, the regular business of the Council being suspended for a time.

Charles Black, humane officer, on behalf of the society, spoke of its purpose of recognizing acts of bravery. Since its organization eleven years ago it had given upwards of 400 awards. A case that occurred in Chippewa last September had been called to his attention about a month ago. He had communicated with the governor of the society, and they had concluded to award the testimonial to Miss Cameron. The circumstances were that as they were coming from school a child, who met her on the bridge asked if she would like to see a little boy drown. Looking over the bridge she saw a four-year-old boy, Walter Fisher, in about ten feet of water. She climbed down on the pile, reached for and grasped the child and handed him up to Mr. Gray. She retained her nerve until she had climbed back on the bridge, then became a little giddy. He read a letter from Adam Brown, president of the society, accompanying the testimonial, mentioning Miss Cameron's father as an old acquaintance, no doubt proud to be the father of such a girl, and conveying his congratulations to the young heroine.

HORRIBLE DOUBLE MURDER AT PENETANGUSHENE.

A Woman and Her Daughter Foully Murdered by Some Unknown Man.

Butchered With an Axe and Their Naked Bodies Hid Under the Floor.

A Penetanguishene, Ont., report:—A double murder has been committed in Penetanguishene. A woman and her daughter were horribly murdered and their bodies thrown into a hole under the floor of the house, both bodies being deprived of every article of clothing. The culprits, after making a poor attempt at cleaning the floor, left the axe with which the crime had been committed and the soiled clothes on the floor. Constable McLaughlin has charge of the case. Coroner Walbridge, of Midland, will take up the investigation.

Son and Brother Suspected.

Strong suspicion rests on the son of the murdered woman, whose name was Mrs. Maggie Desroches, and who was known also as Maggie Prisk, and was aged over fifty. The daughter's name was Annie, her age being about fourteen. The object of the murder is not known. The suspect lived with his mother and is aged about twenty. The reason that he is suspected is that he has told three or four different stories. The murdered girl was on the street last evening, and was apparently afraid of her brother, for when she saw him she tried to avoid him. There had been trouble in the house before that time. The murder is supposed to have been committed about 8:30 p.m.

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF IMMIGRANTS COMING.

Commander Booth-Tucker Tells How the Salvation Army is to Relieve Congested Britain.

Wants the United States to Revise its Immigration Laws and Get Better Citizens.

To Investigate Problems of Water Level, Navigation, Etc., Between Canada and the States.

Cleveland, Ohio, April 17.—Before leaving for the east yesterday Commander Booth-Tucker, who, with H. Rider Haggard, the author, is making an inspection of the social colony work done by the Salvation Army in the United States, outlined the plan of the Salvation Army to relieve congestion in population in London by sending persons to Canada and other English colonies. He said: "Last year the Salvation Army carried 1,000 persons from England to Canada, which is starving for population. We carried them in our own ship. It will not be long before we shall be carrying Englishmen, not by thousands, but by tens of thousands, not only to Canada, but to New Zealand, Australia, India and South Africa. We didn't dump our immigrants in Quebec as the United States dumps immigrants in Ellis Island, but dropped six here and eight there, and a dozen in another place, wherever they were needed."

"Every man who left England for Canada knew before he started where he was going, what he was going to do when he got there, and what wages he would receive."

"The United States should revise its immigration laws. Through its consuls and other representatives immigrants should be investigated before they start, and not after they have landed in New York. Then you get the cream of Europe, the yeomanry, the healthy, sturdy stock, and not the scum, the ne'er-do-weels. The Salvation Army would like to co-operate with the United States Government in a work of this kind. Then colonization could be made the handmaid of immigration."

U. S. and Canadian Waters.

Washington, April 17.—Among the several questions now pending between London and Washington regarding Canada, one of the most important affects the interpretation of the River and Harbor Act of 1902, providing for an American-Canadian commission to investigate and report on the problems of water level, water supply and navigation of the waters adjacent to the boundary line, including all lakes and rivers whose natural outlet is by the St. Lawrence River. Some question has arisen as to the scope of the commission of six, which has already been appointed, the Washington government having taken the tentative position that its jurisdiction did not include the St. John River, where certain obstructions have been placed to the annoyance of Canadians. It is the wish of the Canadians that this river be included in the investigation, and they hold that such was the intention of the act. A similar interpretation was placed on the law by Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador at London, when he presented the invitation for the appointment of the commission. In view of this fact, the representation of the London Government on the subject will be again taken up at Washington and given careful consideration.

HURROO FOR TOMPKINS!

Star-Spangled Banner Must Be Retained in All Its Purity.

Albany, N. Y., April 17.—Assemblyman Tompkins' bill to prevent the consanguinity of the National Anthem and if it receives the approval of the Senate and Governor public school books must contain The Star-Spangled Banner according to Francis Scott Key, and not according to Superintendent Maxwell. The bill is directed against the curriculum of New York's city schools, which uses a version in which interpolated lines are substituted for original verses. In the text book this stanza of the original song is left out: "And where is that band, who so vauntingly swore That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion A home and a country should leave us no more? Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution. No refuge could save the hireling and slave From the terrors of flight or the gloom of the grave." Prof. Tompkins said, "was cut out by Superintendent Maxwell, who is an Englishman. The lines omitted were offensive to the English, and many patriotic citizens throughout the State demand that the anthem shall not be mutilated."

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ONTARIO BIRTHS TOO FEW.

Latest Record is Reported as Very Unsatisfactory.

The thirty-fourth annual report of the Registrar-General of the Province of Ontario gives many interesting details regarding births, marriages and deaths for the year ending December 31, 1903.

The estimated population was 2,198,692, and the number of births, including still-births, 48,742. Of this 25,071 were male and 23,671 female, a rate of 22.1 per thousand of the population, which was less than the rate of all European countries, according to the returns of 1890, the latest available, with the exception of France, in which country it was 21.9. This rate, the report says, is unsatisfactory, and indicates that natural conditions are being interfered with. Nipissing County has the highest birth rate per 1,000, viz., 49.3, and Prince Edward the lowest, 14.6. There was an increase was 593 in 1902 and 61 in 1903. The number of twin births was 492, or 21 less than in 1902, while four triplets were registered, the same as in 1902. The number of infants born out of wedlock was 782, or 16 per 1,000 births, compared to 39 in England and Wales in 1902, and 62.8 out of each 1,000 births in Scotland in that year.

Increase in Marriages.

The marriages registered numbered 19,830, or 9.0 per 1,000 of the population, an increase of 1,842 over the preceding year. The lowest marriage rate was in Rainy River District, 5.5, and the highest in Essex County, 28.3. The latter figure is an abnormal one. Ontario's marriage rate is considered satisfactory. June was the most popular month for marriages. By denominations the Methodist Church still leads in the number of marriages, 32.14 per cent. of the whole going to that Church; the Presbyterian Church had 20.63 per cent., the Church of England 17.29, and the Roman Catholic Church 15.55.

The Death Rate.

The deaths, including still-births, numbered 29,664, a proportion of 13.4 per

ANGLO-JAP. ALLIANCE.

Chamberlain Thinks It One of the Greatest Diplomatic Achievements.

A London cable: Joseph Chamberlain, speaking at the annual meeting of the Liberal Unionist Club held in London to-day, strongly supported the suggestion of an Anglo-Japanese alliance as one of the greatest diplomatic achievements of the last quarter of a century, and said the treaty had already justified itself by limiting the area of the possible conflict which was still going on. The Liberal Unionists, he added, would support Foreign Secretary Lansdowne in his determination to carry out the treaty in its spirit as well as in its letter, and he might say they would be very glad to follow Lord Lansdowne further if the Foreign Secretary thought the policy had initiated could be extended. Mr. Chamberlain believed that any mutual defensive understanding between Japan and Great Britain would secure for an indefinite time peace in the far east and give both Japanese and Great Britain security in their possessions.

SKIRMISHING FREQUENT.

Russians Concentrating and Strengthening Their Lines in Manchuria.

A Tokyo cable: Reports received here from Manchuria indicate that the Russians continue concentrating their troops and strengthening the Changtun-Kirin line. Gen. Madroff's forces continue in touch with the extreme Japanese left. Skirmishes are frequent and

T H I S O R I G I N A L D O C U M E N T I S I N V E R Y P O O R C O N D I T I O N