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Coats, Jackets, Pants,  
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FERTILIZERS!  
ARTIFICIAL MANURES.

Handling. It will pay you to use  
vegetable garden or a few flowers.  
your spare lot, 60x60.  
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Smelters of  
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ER ISLAND, B. C.  
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THOS. KIDDIE  
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Bowes'  
Straw Hat  
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By mail on receipt of price.  
PREPARE FOR SUNSHINE NOW

Its use will save you expense.

Cyrus H. Bowes,  
CHEMIST,

208 Government St., Near Yates St.,  
VICTORIA, B. C.

Leave your parcels in our care.  
Make our store your headquarters.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that thirty days  
date I intend to apply to the Chief  
Commissioner of Lands and Works for a  
twenty-one year lease of the follow-  
ing lands, situated in the Barkley District  
British Columbia, commencing at a stake  
near the Gordon River interests the  
stake boundary of the E. & N. Railway  
grant, thence southwesterly six miles,  
thence northwesterly twelve miles, thence  
thence easterly six miles, thence south-  
easterly six miles, thence southwesterly  
to point of commencement.  
Dated this 30th day of March, 1904.  
JOHN TAYLOR.

"LAND REGISTRY ACT"

The Matter of an Application for a  
Duplicate of the Certificate of Title to  
Lot Twenty-Three (23), Cedarvale (Map  
204), Victoria District.  
Notice is hereby given that it is my inten-  
tion at the expiration of one month from  
the date of publication hereof, to issue a Duplicate  
of the Certificate of Title to the above  
lot, issued to John Bradford Johnson on  
the 22nd day of November, 1900, and  
numbered 6340c.

S. Y. WOODTON,  
Registrar-General,  
Land Registry Office, Victoria, B. C.,  
20th Day of March, 1904.

ANTED—We have continual inquiries for  
Vancouver Island farm lands. If your  
property is for sale write us at once, giv-  
ing full particulars, and we will sell it for  
you if it can be sold. Heisterman & Co.,  
Victoria, B. C.

\$1.00 PER YEAR, STRAIGHTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN  
CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN.

# THE VICTORIA TIMES.

TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1904.

PER YEAR TO OTHER COUNTRIES, POSTAGE PREPAID.  
PAYABLE IN ADVANCE \$2.00

NO. 17.

## GREAT BATTLE IS NOW IN PROGRESS

### Japanese Attacked Russians Who Held Fortified Position—Report of Victory of Mikado's Troops.

Tokio, April 29.—Seventy-five Japanese were killed or drowned as a result of the sinking of the Japanese transport Kinshin Maru, which was torpedoed by the Russian armored cruiser Rossia at midnight Monday last.

The Kinshin Maru parted from the convoy of torpedo boats in a fog on Monday, and at 11:30 met the Russian fleet. She was ordered to stop, and the Rossia steamed alongside, summoned her navigating officers on board the Rossia and sent a searching party on board the transport. This party discovered two companies of soldiers concealed below, and reported the fact to the Rossia. The latter discharged a torpedo, which struck the Kinshin Maru amidships and broke her in two.

While the transport was sinking the soldiers on board her rushed on deck and fired volleys from their rifles into the Rossia, and as the Kinshin Maru sank several of the soldiers committed suicide.

Three boats which floated from the wreckage were the means of saving forty-five soldiers and nine of the Kinshin Maru's passengers and crew. Two captains and three lieutenants were among the soldiers drowned.

The survivors succeeded in getting ashore, and were conveyed by steamer to Gensan today.

**THE KINSHIN MARU.**  
Vessel Sunk by Russians Was Attached to Fleet as Dispatch Boat.

Nagasaki, Japan, April 29.—The Japanese steamer Kinshin Maru, which was sunk by the Russians near Gensan, was attached to the fleet as a dispatch boat.

**THE JAPANESE FLEET.**  
Cruisers and Torpedo Boats in the Vicinity of Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, April 29.—Viceroy Alexieff telegraphs under today's date that the Japanese ships were sighted six miles off Port Arthur last night, and that six torpedo boats were seen in a bay adjacent to Vladivostok.

**BACK IN PORT.**  
Admiral Yessen's Squadron Has Returned to Vladivostok.

Vladivostok, April 29.—The squadron, commanded by Rear-Admiral Yessen, has returned here from its recent operations off the Korean coast. The squadron consisting of the armored cruiser Rossia, Rurik and Gromoboi, the protected cruiser Bogatry, put to sea at daylight on April 28th. The Rurik returned the following day, but the others proceeded to Gensan, Korea, and here to off the town during the morning of April 29th, about five miles from the entrance of the bay. Admiral Yessen sent into the bay two torpedo boats, commanded by Lieuts. Pohl and Maximoff. As they ran in towards the shore they found the Japanese trading steamer Goyo Maru at anchor with a crew of about 20 men on board.

The latter were ordered ashore. Lieut. Maximoff boarded the Goyo Maru, took possession of her papers and flags and then sent her to the bottom with a torpedo. The torpedo boats forthwith joined the squadron after four hours' absence. There was no sign of troops ashore, and the bay was empty, but it was assumed four Japanese torpedo boats destroyed had put out to sea on April 28th.

The Russian squadron returned to Vladivostok and laid there until April 29th, and started on another expedition. At 6 in the evening of April 29th, when 300 miles out, the squadron sighted a Japanese steamer with war stores on board. Her crew, consisting of fifteen Koreans and twelve Japanese, were placed in safety and the steamer was sunk by a proxyline cartridge, fired from the Gromoboi.

The same night, about 11 o'clock, when the squadron was 12 miles off Plaskin bay, Korea, a large Japanese transport, the Kinshin Maru, was overhauled. Her crew, consisting of fifteen Russians for a Japanese squadron, signaled "Am bringing you coal." The Russian commander promptly signalled in reply, "Stop instantly." The crew then recognized their mistake and began to lower boats and steam pinnaces with the greatest haste and endeavored to escape. But the Russian steam cutters captured them all.

On board the transport were found Hotchkiss guns of 47 millimeters. At the outset it looked as if no one was left on board, but on examination it was found that the cabin was locked and barred. Therein the Russians found six

infantry officers, who surrendered without resistance, and were taken on board the Rurik. In another part of the ship 130 infantry men, who refused to surrender, were found. Admiral Yessen's vessel was about 1,600 yards away, ordered his men to leave the transport. The Japanese soldiers then opened fire and wounded a Russian crewman. Afterwards the transport was sent to the bottom by means of a mechanical mine and a few shells.

The Japanese made no attempt to save themselves, although they had a launch in which they could have left the transport. The fire of the Japanese actually continued until the waves closed over the ship. The transport had on board not only ammunition, but 2,000 tons of coal for Admiral Makamura.

The prisoners numbered 183, including 17 officers.

Altogether 210 prisoners were taken by the Russian squadron, landed at Vladivostok and immediately dispatched by train.

It was reported at the time the Russian cruisers were returning to Vladivostok a Japanese squadron was also making for here, but it failed to reach the bay owing to the fog.

A wireless telegraph message was picked up by the Russian ships while at sea. It was in code and unintelligible. It was evidently passing between the Japanese ships.

Among the prisoners are a colonel and an officer of the general staff, while the soldiers include a number of Japanese who before the war worked as artisans in Vladivostok.

**INTIMATION TO POWERS.**  
Russia Will Not Accept Mediation to Terminate the War.

St. Petersburg, April 29.—In the most categorical terms Russia has officially notified the world that she will not accept mediation to terminate the war with Japan.

The official notification, which is in accordance with the authoritative announcement made by the Associated Press on April 25th, is contained in a circular issued by the minister of foreign affairs to the Russian representatives to foreign powers, which is gazetted in the official message this morning. The circular denies the report that formal proposals have been made to the Imperial government by any foreign power to use its good offices to restore peace, a denial which does not refer to the personal intimation addressed directly to the Emperor by King Edward and King Christian of Denmark, an account of which was given by the Associated Press. The text of the circular is as follows:

"The foreign press has recently been persistently circulating rumors concerning intentions on the part of some of the European governments to undertake a friendly intervention, with a view to a speedy termination of the conflict between Russia and Japan. Telegrams have even been received announcing that proposals of such a nature have already been made to the Imperial government.

"You are empowered to deny this statement most categorically. Russia did not wish, and everything within the limits of possibility was done by her to settle the complications which had arisen in the Far East in a peaceful manner, but after the treacherous surprise on the part of the Japanese which forced Russia to take up arms, obviously no friendly mediation can have any success.

"Similarly, the Imperial government will not admit the intervention of any power whatsoever in the direct negotiations which will occur between Russia and Japan after the termination of hostilities in order to determine the conditions of peace."

**WARSHIPS OFF PORT ARTHUR.**  
The Sinking of a Transport—A Rumor That Admiral Will Be Relieved of Command.

London, April 29.—The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent asserts that the Russian cruisers slipped past the Japanese squadron during a fog and regained the harbor of Vladivostok.

The sinking of the Japanese transport is much commented on here as proving that the Japanese placed too much confidence in their command of the sea, and there is no doubt but that it will induce greater vigilance on their part. There is some inclination to criticize harshly the action of Rear-Admiral Yessen, but most of this morning's papers prefer to await particulars of the affair before passing judgment.

According to the Standard's Tientsin correspondent, the whole country outside of the great wall is flooded, and

any movement of the land forces is impracticable for the present.

A special dispatch from Port Arthur says that the demonstration made by the Japanese torpedo boats, covered by a Japanese squadron off Port Arthur yesterday morning, was undertaken for the purpose of inducing the batteries to waste their ammunition, but the Russians refrained from answering the Japanese fire.

Japan wishes above everything else to command the sea and she will then be free from fear of invasion and loss of territory. With the complete destruction of the Russian fleet we believe the war will end. Japan's alliance with Great Britain was a stupid act and will be of no service to us.

"We know perfectly well that the Americans were never our friends because in the Far East they were always our opponents. We are afraid that if Japan is victorious the British and Americans really will benefit. It would be foolish for Japan to ally herself with the United States, because the Americans do not intend to help us, but they wish to exploit us."

**MAY BE COURT-MARTIALED.**  
St. Petersburg, April 28.—The operations of the Vladivostok squadron have excited the spirits of the people at St. Petersburg, who have been downcast since the destruction of the Petropavlovsk and the confinement of the Port Arthur fleet to the harbor. The fact that the navy is doing something of an offensive character appeals to the popular mind, which has been unable to appreciate the reason for the inactivity of the ships of the Vladivostok squadron.

There are generally regarded that Rear-Admiral Yessen cannot do more than frighten the Japanese and compel them to exercise greater care in their military movements, as the sinking of a few transports, or even cruisers, can have no permanent effect on the result of the war. Moreover, he is bound by his instructions not to risk his ships, and the intention being to keep them safe for an attack with the Baltic fleet when it arrives in the Pacific. The possibility of a Japanese attempt to mine the entrance to Vladivostok, as was done at Port Arthur, is considered, but the conditions are different, and besides Rear-Admiral Yessen, with the lesson of the battleship disaster fresh in his mind, will observe the utmost caution.

St. Petersburg is filled with rumors regarding the sinking of the Japanese military transport, the Kinshin Maru. One report has it that 3,600 men were aboard the transport when she went down, but the Admiralty insists that there were only 200.

It is said that the Emperor is highly indignant over the affair, and that he will relieve Yessen and order him to be court-martialed. This report lacks confirmation in responsible circles, where it is reiterated that no other course could be pursued, and that the Admiral only fired when the Japanese categorically refused to surrender and adopted a hostile attitude. The officials say that there is no similarity between the sinking of the Kinshin Maru and the destruction of the Kowshing, which was sunk by the Japanese before the declaration of war with China, as Russia is at war with Japan. That Admiral Yessen gave the men every opportunity to leave the ship is proved by the fact that all the officers, some of the soldiers, the crew and the coolies were transferred by a boat to a cruiser.

The Official Messenger publishes a circular issued by the foreign office to Russian representatives abroad, declaring that Russia will not accept mediation to terminate the war, which, the circular declares, was forced on her. Neither will Russia, it is declared, allow the intervention of any power whatsoever in the Russo-Japanese negotiations after the war.

**Submarines Ready.**  
Port Arthur, April 28.—One of the submarine boats which were put in commission April 24th was received in sections at Port Arthur before the war began. At the first opportunity it is intended that the submarine vessels shall be employed against the heavy ships of the enemy.

**Prisoner Interviewed.**  
Liao Yang, April 28.—The delay of the forward movement of the Japanese into Manchuria is due to the exceptionally severe weather. It is reported that there is considerable suffering among the Japanese troops, due to illness and the cold weather.

Major Togo Tatuzoro, a member of the general staff of the Japanese army, who is a prisoner here and had been captured at Wifu, where he had lived since January last, said to the Associated Press today:

"The Russians will be driven as far as Balfak, further than that, we do not wish to go, but we will return to Manchuria and open it to the trade of the world. Our people are certain that they can beat the Russians, but I think we began hostilities fifty years too soon. We were not prepared for such a serious war."

Japan wishes above everything else to command the sea and she will then be free from fear of invasion and loss of territory. With the complete destruction of the Russian fleet we believe the war will end. Japan's alliance with Great Britain was a stupid act and will be of no service to us.

"We know perfectly well that the Americans were never our friends because in the Far East they were always our opponents. We are afraid that if Japan is victorious the British and Americans really will benefit. It would be foolish for Japan to ally herself with the United States, because the Americans do not intend to help us, but they wish to exploit us."

**HARASSING THE ADVANCE.**  
Russian Army Supplies Being Moved Nearer the Yalu—Survivors of Kinshin Maru.

St. Petersburg, April 29.—Viceroy Alexieff's report that a Japanese squadron was off Port Arthur last night, followed by another announcing that ten Japanese cruisers and six torpedo boats were seen in Ussuri bay, adjacent to Vladivostok, has aroused anxiety, and naval circles are speculating whether the enemy will venture to approach Vladivostok at close range than last time.

There are persistent rumors of fighting on the Yalu river, but the Associated Press correspondent is informed that no serious engagements have taken place and that the fighting has been limited to affairs of outpost, Russians contesting and harassing the Japanese advance.

**Survivors Landed.**  
London, April 30.—The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Kobe, Japan, says the captain of the Japanese schooner Chihaya, which arrived at Gensan yesterday, announced that he had rescued about 45 soldiers and nine members of the crew of the Japanese transport Kinshin Maru.

The daily papers commenting upon Russia's reputation of official note as solely intended for home consumption, as none of the powers would be likely to intervene unless previously assured that mediation would be welcome. They also hint that Russia may have cause to regret that she closed the door prematurely on the possibility of friendly intervention and regard the note as compelling all hope of an early termination of hostilities. The Daily Telegraph says: "The note breathes an uncompromising determination to fight while there is a noble in the treasury, but no other course would be regarded worthy of a great world power."

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**CAPTIVE STEAMERS.**  
Case of Vessels Captured by Japs Has Been Dismissed—Russian Officers Held.

Nagasaki, April 29.—The case of the



GENERAL VIEW OF THE TOWN OF FERNIE.

## BURNED BUILDINGS WILL BE REPLACED

### Inhabitants of Fire-Scorched Fernie Display Commendable Energy in Preparing to Resume Business.

Fernie, B. C., April 29.—Fire broke out this morning at 3 o'clock in the Richards & Company store, and before being subdued at 8 o'clock it had practically wiped out the whole of the business portion of the town and some private residences.

Owing to the poor water supply the fire brigade was unable to do very little to check the spread of the conflagration.

Every grocery and dry goods store was burned.

The following stores were among those destroyed:

- Richards & Co., general.
- Hazelwood & Sudley, druggists.
- Mitchell & Co., tailors.
- Crow's Nest Trading Co., general.
- The Trites Wood Co., general.
- Cuthbert & Co., confectioners.
- Purdy & Co., fruiterers, etc.
- Beasdale, druggist.
- Stork, hardware.
- McEwing & Stein, barbers.
- Hutchinson, tailor.
- Lippart, jeweller.
- Burns & Co., butchers.
- Calgary Cattle Co., butchers.

The following hotels were also burnt:

- Royal, Alberta, Fernie, Muskato, Victoria and Waldorf.
- The Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company lost their office.
- The Bank of Commerce and English church were also burned.

The loss is estimated at over half a million dollars.

Fernie, B. C., April 29.—Of the greater part of Fernie's flourishing business centre nothing is left but smoking ruins, with here and there a vault and a tower

likely to sink the transport, but means to escape were left at the disposal of the 130 Japanese. The papers point out the mendacity of the Japanese claims that Gensan was strongly garrisoned, and believe that the Russian advance from Plaskin bay will not meet with strong resistance. The Kinshin Maru evidently was conveying reinforcements to Song Jin.

It is expected that the Russian activity in Eastern Korea will retard the operations on the Yalu river.

**CAPTIVE STEAMERS.**  
Case of Vessels Captured by Japs Has Been Dismissed—Russian Officers Held.

Nagasaki, April 29.—The case of the

of Commerce and the Cuthbert block, after which it was got under control before crossing a vacant lot.

The fire had crossed from the starting point to the east side of Victoria avenue, first destroying the Muskoka hotel and a cottage. It went down the east side, taking in its way Purdy's confectionery parlors and the Fernie hotel, Bleasell's dry goods store, Stork's plumbing store, Quill's hardware and furniture store, Scribble's shoe store and Liphart's jewelry store.

Leaping another street it went on, taking P. Burns's meat shop, two jewelry stores and a clothing store, where it finally was stopped back from the main street on Pellatt and Railroad avenues. There were burned the Turner block, containing the Calgary Cattle Company meat market, the church, the Alberta hotel and the store of the Pollock Wine Company, Louis Carroll's general store and other buildings, including the Commercial Hotel. Only half-a-dozen business buildings remain at the end of the main street, including the B. C. Furniture Company, Shephard & Elliott's hardware, and the Fernie Free Press office.

The charred space, upon which not a building remains, is a quarter mile long and 200 yards wide.

The flames have taken the heart of the town completely. There were no fatalities in the conflagration, and owing to the few residences burned not many families are homeless, but the five hotels demolished accommodated many who are now without room or board. The loss of the stores makes a scarcity of food, but this will be immediately replenished from the stores at Celestines nearby.

The public square was utilized as a dumping ground for all stuff which people attempted to save. It presents a unique appearance, hotel furniture, household goods and general merchandise in heaps all over it.

The fire was large enough to create a great deal of excitement, but what could be done to save property was done systematically and with little loss of time.

The great energy of the townspeople is already prevailing over the loss, and empty buildings are being utilized for the business places of such concerns as the Coal Company, the Trites-Wood Company, the Bank of Commerce and P. Burns's meat market.

Tents are also beginning to dot the hopeless-looking ground where the only unburned objects are huge piles of ice left from the various ice houses. The telephone was disabled as soon as the Coal Company's office burned, but the telegraph connection is still intact.

The catastrophe will not interfere with the work of the mines beyond a few shifts being lost at Coal Creek.

Building operations will be commenced immediately, as there is a good supply of lumber and fittings in the town. The total loss of property cannot be estimated as yet, but the greatest loss in the mercantile line is sustained by the Trites-Wood Company, which is roughly estimated at \$150,000, partly covered by insurance.

thirty thousand Russians, who were strongly fortified.

It is thought this morning that the Japanese are reinforced, and the battle continues.

The Japanese sharpshooters killed many Russian officers, whose uniforms were conspicuous.

**ANOTHER REPORT.**  
Washington, April 30.—Reports have reached the state department, the source of which the officials do not care to divulge, to the effect that a great battle has been fought on the Yalu river, resulting in a complete Japanese victory. Details are unavailable.

The Japanese legation here has news confirming these reports. Reports which have from time to time