Chant.

in Song in Catholic Gregorian Music.

urch.
The first is that the Gregorian can, within a year, be taught to any provided the plain song editions by the Benedictines or Solesmes ed, and that no church organist llows the Strasburg organ accom- ents is going to find his way so dif- and the second is, the Gregorian should be taught in all Catholic In that way this great revolu- the music of the Church can be t about in a few years."
her Young says that Gregorian expresses as does no other the sen- of the Roman Catholic mass. e Gregorian music survives from st days of the Church, when the gathered together and chanted the s. Then came the reading of the s of the Apostles, which survives in the reading of the Gospels; then eed; then came the explanation we have today in the sermon. mass proper begins only with ratory. Of the singing of the s at the beginning of the service survives today only the 'Introit,' is sung as the priest enters the ary.
Gregorian music alone retains differences between what is mere- minary to the mass and the sol- rt of the service, which it con- Later composers devoted as ime and care to one part of the s to another, and made no attempt t out the most solemn moments. every way it remains the most ul expression of Christian adora- music."

GOOD FROM EVIL.

shington, D. C., despatch to the Se- ost-Intelligencer, says:
ew of the recent marine accidents Pacific Coast, notably the Clallam Queen disasters, the department ce thinks this is an opportune time re some amendments to the law g the inspection of steam vessels. g interests on both coasts have long ued that this country has the most ted and cumbersome laws relating he inspection of any country in the In a general way the law is not ent; but it is a back number, and ot elastic or adapted to modern

tary Cortelyou, after long consulta- ith Supervising Inspector General has prepared a bill amending the law, and this has been intro- the senate by Senator Frye. It is s Mr. Cortelyou says, that this modi- of the law will go a long way to- improving present evils in steam inspection, and may be the result of human life in specific instances.

AST OF THE TERRORISTS.

anniversary of the Paris commune was duly celebrated on Wednes- arch 16 by the survivors of that eaded institution, who marched in on to the Federalists' wall at Pere- ese cemetery and placed immortel- red flowers on the graves of those re executed by the Versailles troops he command of Marquis de Gallifet. ling passed off very quietly. Henri t was a prominent figure with his hite locks. The group had the ap- e of an assembly of venerable, high- ectable, retired officers. It is in- to note the changes that have er the communists, who thirty-three ago, nearly succeeded in burning

Paschal Grousset, who was the he's Minister of Foreign Affairs, is ervative Republican Deputy and is e to thousands of French and English g boys as the author of books of ad adventure under the pseudonyme e Laurie. Other survivors are Jules ex-Prime Minister, whose Repub- n has a strong tinge of Clericalism; nemceau, now Senator; M. Lock- x-Minister of Marine; M. Bar- e French Ambassador at Rome, and Baue, the dramatic critic.

AUTHOR'S GRATITUDE.

estate of the late Herbert Spen- s been valued at something over $90,000 gold. So much e "returns" of philosophy. On er hand, the late Henry Seton an left a fortune of more than 0. He left a legacy of $25, Evelyn Beatrice Hall, "in f my gratitude for her contin- ssistance and literary advice, which I should never have le to have made a living by my

SOUL-WIJU RAILWAY.

has now decided herself to un- the construction of the Seoul- ilway, as it is strategically im- tin deference to the new alli- reement between Japan and Traffic between Seoul and g will probably be opened with- easurable space of time. The therefore are to be defrayed e extraordinary military funds, from the ordinary railway esti- The work is also, to be super- the military authorities.

FOR LANDLUBBERS.

That Water-Babies Know But Landsmen Don't.

ll a person not to make the st would be to teach him the mentary rudiment of boat-sail- it is equally necessary to avoid before the wind and courting by a sudden jibe, besides e wind has not the same ef- the sail that it has when on the quarter. If the sea is vy it is fatal to run before it, oat would be certain to broach e rudder has little or no power e boat is being carried along rest of a wave. In the circum- the best plan is to ride to a sea which may be made by utilis- mast, the oars and sail. When for a lee shore, on which the reaking, a square-sterned boat be backed in, or the anchor and the cable veered away, nting, either professionally or ure, in harbors where the surf s breaks on shallow patches, precaution to avoid these dan- l if unfortunate enough to be on them, stick to the boat. er remembers a surveying boat st in such a manner; the crew the boat and were eventually ashore, none the worse for king, but the officer who en- to swim, was soon exhausted ned.
cial failures to the number of re reported in Germany in 1903. ge amount of each failure was

can stores the metric system of nd measures is in general use.

t has been granted in England covery whereby radium can be luminating gas sights.

scientists have discovered that s may be made to produce co- atmost any color. Their food to suit.

countries the Salvation Army 7,500 separate societies, 14,000 rs, 431,730 unpaid officers and dmen.

e war in the East began a newspaper readers have won- Port Arthur came to get its e first foreign vessel to enter

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVI., NO. 42. VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1904. FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Reports From The Front

Russian Official Despatches Cover [illegible] on the Yalu to 30th.

Nineteen Muscovites Killed During Crossing and Japanese Loss Likely Large.

Preparations on the Right Bank Continue For Pitched Battle.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—An official despatch has been received at headquarters concerning affairs on the Yalu up to April 30. It is as follows:

Official reports received during the last few days state that on April 22nd a movement was seen among the Japanese troops on the Yalu, small detachments moving on the left bank. On April 23rd larger bodies concentrated opposite Wiju and the Japanese proceeded to cross by small detachments. About two companies with a small body of calvary crossed at Siao Po Usikhe. From the evening of April 24th onward reports began to come to the effect that the enemy was preparing to cross the Wiju at Turen Cheng and Tshao Chen Ling. On the following day the Japanese endeavored to throw bridges across the eastern arm of the Yalu opposite Turen Cheng and Siao Po Usikhe. Towards 3 o'clock in the afternoon they occupied the island of Somalinda and spent the night of April 26th on an island north of Saudakon. The Japanese, who numbered 15,000, were received by the fire of our light cavalry, who, being numerically inferior, took boats and crossed to the right bank, whence they kept up a lively fire, sheltered by a sharp ascent. Our light cavalry lost the chief of the detachment, Lieut. Somonoff, and 18 men, who were killed, but their severe fire at short range against the Japanese in close formation, must have inflicted considerable loss.

At 3:30 a. m., April 26th, by their firing on the island opposite Turen Chong, our guns destroyed the bridge across the eastern branch of the Yalu towards the island of Somalinda, forcing the Japanese to continue their passage of the river by pontoons south of Wiju. About midday a detachment of Japanese with a battery of artillery began a march upon Turen Chong, but meeting with the fire of our artillery, they retired in disorder and confusion towards the place of their passage. The Japanese battery did not have time even to come into action.

At 9 o'clock in the evening on April 27th some of the battalions of the Japanese crossed the Yalu with the village of Matoutsoo over the eastern branch of the river.

The night of April 27-28 passed quietly. On the morning of April 28th our scouts reported that the Japanese had occupied an island opposite the village of Sandakon, having advanced posts on the left bank. On the 29th our troops continued to occupy their position on the right bank of the river.

Heroes Get a Hearty Welcome

Remnants of Crews of Korietz and Variag Reach St. Petersburg.

An Unsurpassed Outburst of Popular Enthusiasm Marks Event.

St. Petersburg, April 29.—The oldest inhabitant of St. Petersburg does not remember such an outburst of popular enthusiasm as was witnessed this morning on the arrival here of the survivors of the Variag and Korietz. Undeterred by the raw, rainy weather as many as a hundred thousand persons crowded the three-mile Nevsky from the railroad depot to the palace square. The roofs and windows here were black with people waving naval flags. The whole route was lined by soldiers, sailors and cadets of the military schools. Every regiment was represented, as the Emperor wishes all his fighting men to see now the brave are honored.

When the train drew up the Grand Duke Alexis, as high admiral, received the heroes. A deafening storm of cheers burst out as the weather-beaten seamen appeared in sight. The crews of the Variag and Korietz were quickly mustered on the platform, each man wearing the St. George's cross.

The Grand Duke Alexis, attended by a brilliant staff of admirals, approached the survivors of the Chemulpo engagement, and Capt. Roudeneff, the commander of the Variag saluted and presented the Grand Duke with a formal report of the battle and the number and state of health of the survivors. The Grand Duke, followed by Capt. Roudeneff and the admirals, then passed along the ranks and saluted the sailors, Russian fashion, saying, "Well done, my children." To which the sailors replied as one man, "We are glad to do our best, Imperial Highness." The formalities over, the high admiral, moved with emotion, embraced Capt. Roudeneff and the other officers. It was now the turn of the deputations from the nobility and municipality to present address of welcome and the traditional bread and salt.

Then began the triumphal march down the Nevsky of the officers and men of the Variag and Korietz, marshaled in two columns and preceded by two bands of music. The people went fairly wild over the heroes and showered them with flowers amid a mighty roar of cheering from roofs and windows, balconies and lamp posts and the surging masses below. Near the Palace square stood the cadets of the military school. Those of the younger class, the little fellows aged seven, forgot to salute and instead tore off their caps and cheered lustily.

As the column of heroes approached the portals of the Winter Palace, the Emperor and Empress came out on a balcony, greeted them and then retired to receive the visitors in the magnificent Nicholas hall, which had been converted into a church. There a special Te Deum was sung. The service was attended by a brilliant assemblage, rendering all the more conspicuous the tarnished uniforms of the noble jacks who fought at Chemulpo. After the service all the sailors remained and were banqueted as the Emperor's guests, going later to entertainments at the city hall and at the People's Palace.

WIRELESS CORRESPONDENT IS NOW OUT OF ACTION

Japanese Authorities Intimate That For the Present All Information IS Barred.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Nagasaki, April 30.—To all intents and purposes, the Port Arthur action of April 13th has destroyed all reasonable fear of interference with Japan's plans in the Yellow Sea by the Russian Pacific squadron and with the successful beginning of operations which is now reported along the Yalu. As pointed out in my previous messages, General Kuroki's army may not be expected to cross the Yalu until the Japanese are prepared to strike heavily all along their selected front.

The military authorities consider that in the present juncture it would be a tactical mistake to allow any external means of communication to remain in touch with their troops, and this is the reason for my remaining here. From the attitude of the inhabitants here it is almost impossible to realize that the country is engaged in a national struggle and the calm which prevails is most remarkable.

The above despatch is from Capt. Lionel James, the Times publisher's press correspondent on board the steamer Haimun, which put into Nagasaki on Wednesday last to refit. This probably means that the Japanese government has requested the further disuse of the wireless telegraphy apparatus on the Haimun for the present.

Tokio, April 30.—There is a growing belief in Japan that Germany's neutrality is becoming benevolent towards Russia. A leading journal commenting upon the imperial chancellor's pretext that the sale of ships to Russia is consistent with neutrality, inasmuch as Japan is equally free to purchase the vessels, pronounces the plea untenable because of the different conditions of the two belligerents affect the character of the acts of neutrality. The journal referred to thinks the German government intended to be strictly neutral, whereas she is now beginning to curry favor with Russia, but it doubts whether such a policy is favored by the German nation.

LOUBET'S FAREWELL TO THE ITALIANS

A Brilliant Naval Pageant Marks French President's Departure.

Rome, April 29.—Naples remembers no event in late years which compared with the scene today when, after a review of the combined French and Italian fleets in the beautiful bay of Naples, President Loubet bade adieu to King Victor Emmanuel. Enormous crowds of Italians and French and foreigners witnessed the splendid spectacles. It is estimated that 25,000 people crowded cafes or wandered about the streets all night unable to find beds. From early morning every position available for witnessing the naval review was completely occupied by spectators and the magnificent gulf was absolutely clogged with craft of all descriptions from large yachts to humble fishing and rowing boats and all nationalities, each hoisting its colors, the French predominating.

The French and Italian squadrons anchored side by side made a fine and imposing scene. The battleship Regina Margherita, bearing on board President Loubet, King Victor Emmanuel and the royal princes with their respective suites, appeared from the military harbor and was saluted by the thundering hurrahs, the booming of cannon and the waving of handkerchiefs by the immense multitude. The Regina Margherite was followed by the torpedo gunboat Emilice with the members of the diplomatic corps on board, and by other ships carrying dignitaries of state, members of parliament, representatives of the press, etc.

President Loubet and King Emmanuel, on the bridge of the Regina Margherite was saluted with the strains of the Marseillaise and the Royal Italian march. The weather was glorious. The Regina Margherite passed twice between the fleets and President Loubet and the King exchanged compliments on the perfect condition of the ships and the appearance of the men. From the Regina Margherite President Loubet went on board the French cruiser Marseillaise, which is to carry him to France. He was saluted by 21 guns from each ship and by cheers from all the crews.

Shortly after embarking on the Marseillaise he was visited by the King, when the last adieus were taken. The French squadron left the bay headed by the Marseillaise. The French ships were accompanied by six Italian battleships and two squadrons of torpedo boats. As long as it was possible to distinguish the salutations President Loubet and the King exchanged farewells, standing on the bridge of the two warships.

A DOMESTIC TRAGEDY.

Husband Shoots Wife and Then Commits Suicide.

Augusta, Me., April 29.—Mrs. W. E. Osgood, of Hiram, was shot by her husband on board the express train bound from Boston to St. John, N. B., last night and died in a hospital early today. Osgood, who also shot himself, is dead. The tragedy was due to domestic differences. They were returning from Boston where Osgood had gone after his wife, who had left her home. When the train was stopped at a station the other passengers heard Osgood and his wife quarreling. A few minutes later Osgood stood up and when his wife requested him to be seated he drew a revolver and shot her. Before any person could interfere the man pressed a revolver to his own head and fired.

MAKAROFF'S WIDOW THANKS THE BRITISH

Wife of the Late Russian Admiral Acknowledges Sympathy From England.

LONDON TIMES CABLE SERVICE.

London, April 29.—The Times publishes the following letter to the editor dated New Petershoff, Russia, April 25th, from the widow of Admiral Makaroff:

"Sir: Madam Makaroff, widow of the late Admiral Makaroff, commander of the Russian fleet in the Pacific, being unable in her profound grief to acknowledge individually all of the numerous letters and telegrams of condolence she has received from the English people wishes to express through the columns of the Times her deep gratitude for their generous appreciation of her late husband and their spontaneous and unanimous sympathy with her and daughter and her son in their terrible bereavement. (Signed)

"CAPITOLENE MAKAROFF."

WEEK'S WORK AT ROSSLAND CAMP

Commencement of Construction on White Bear Concentrator, Spitzee Showing Well.

Rossland, B. C., April 30.—Commencement of construction on the White Bear concentrator was the principal event of the week in the Rossland camp. The site chosen is within a stonethrow of the head works, and ground has been broken for the first time for the foundations. It is expected that work will be commenced by July 1st and that the plant will be in operation early in September if the machinery is delivered on schedule time. The company also received a 350 horse-power motor which will drive a twenty-drill compressor plant already installed. Shipments have been suspended, pending the installation of the motor.

Remarkably good results are being had at the Spitzee mine, which was located through the railway cutting in an ore outcrop and later acquired by the Eureka corporation now in control. The quantity of ore shipped lately all went over $20 to the ton, and returns of the last car went $30, principally in gold. The company is employing 25 men.

A start has been made on the Velvet-Portland mine in the Sophie mountain section of the camp. A force is at work on the partly completed concentrator, which will be finished as soon as possible, large orders for machinery having been placed.

Shipments for the week ending tonight were: Le Roi, 1,287; Centre Star, 1,597; War Eagle, 1,116; Le Roi No. 2, 590; Le Roi No. 2 milled, 280; Spitzee, 90; I. X. L. (milled), 100; total for the week, 5,020; year to date, 137,793 tons.

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

Dublin, April 29.—King Edward and Queen Alexandra attended the Leopardstown races today, the smartest day of the Dublin race week.

MR. KRUGER'S HEALTH.

Mentone, France, April 29.—While it is difficult to ascertain the exact state of health of Mr. Kruger, former president of the Transvaal, it is stated on good authority that symptoms of a cerebal affection are apparent, and that a consultation of physicians has been held. Mr. Kruger is extremely weak.

THIEF ARRESTED.

Milwaukee, Wis., April 29.—John A. Fagg, for many years empoyed in a registry branch of the Kansas City, Mo., post office, was arrested today by Postoffice Inspector McKee. Fagg is said to have been under two indictments in Kansas City, one of which charged him with having taken a package containing $8,000 in money consigned to the J. V. Brinkham Company Bank.

LIQUIDATING TRUST CO.

Baltimore, April 29.—Allan McLane, receiver of the Maryland Trust Co., announced today that the Vera Cruz and Pacific railway, which was principaly owned by the Maryland company, has been purchased by the Mexican government at figures in excess of $4,000,000. Receiver McLane says that this sale will enable the trust company to pay its debts, dollar for dollar, and leaves a surplus for division among the stockholders.

KAMLOOPS' PROGRESS.

Kamloops, B. C., April 29.—Cecil Ward left tonight for England. Previous to his departure he made the announcement that the Canadian Hotels, Limited, would immediately proceed with the construction of the Hotel Cecil, plans for which are being prepared at Victoria. The hotel will be located in the heart of this city. The plans call for a four-story brick building containing forty bedrooms with all modern improvements. The building of such a hotel is in keeping with the growth of Kamloops and the surrounding district. The estimated cost is $35,000.

A DOUBLE SUICIDE.

Defaulter and His Wife Found Dead From Asphyxiation.

Toledo, April 29.—John W. Martin and wife were found dead in their bed this morning as a result of asphyxiation from illuminating gas. It is believed to be a case of double suicide, as Martin yesterday was found short in his accounts in the city waterworks office, where he had been employed for twelve years as bookkeeper. Both Martin and his wife were prominent in lodge circles, and the man's downfall is believed to have been caused by policy, racing bets and speculation beyond his means. The amount of his shortage is not known, but it is not believed to be very great, as he did not have access to any large amounts of money.

Day's Doings At Ottawa

Japanese Consul General Nosse Takes Up Residence at the Capital.

Shipbuilders and Others Are Warned Against Violating Foreign Enlistment Act.

Liberals' "Free Trade" Policy Continues to Gather the Shekels.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, April 30.—Japanese Consul General Nosse took up his residence here today.

The Ontario boards of trade are to see Hon. Mr. Cartwright next week about the new grain inspection bill, which they do not like.

Fighting On the Yalu.

London, April 30.—The Observer says he understands that the Japanese legation has received a long despatch confirming the reports of fighting on the Yalu river, but the contents of the despatch are not available.

Mr. McLean, the commercial agent to Japan, will not leave here before May 10th, as the government desires him first to visit the different commercial centres.

The government has issued a warning to shipbuilders and others against any violation of the Foreign Enlistment Act by supplying materials of war to the belligerents.

The customs revenue of the Dominion for the ten months ending today was $33,377,039, an increase of $3,388,377 over the same time last year. The was a small decrease in the revenue for the month, probably caused by the lateness of navigation and the backward season. This is the first decrease in several years. The growth of the customs revenue since 1897 has been steady and continuous. The next seven months will make up any deficit which has been caused this month.

Old Warships Under Hammer

Well Known Sloops-of-war Familiar on the Coast Are Sold.

Nationalities in British Army Shows Surprising Proportion of Irishmen.

London, April 16.—The sloop Icarus, which spent a considerable portion of her latter commissioned days on the Pacific station, was put up the other day at Chatham by public auction, and sold at £3,900. The sloop Daphne, which was formerly also a familiar figure in Pacific waters, was knocked down for £4,050.

The 64th company Royal Garrison Artillery, which, under the designation of the 19th company, Western Division, was the first company to garrison the forts of Esquimalt, has been ordered from Singapore to Fort William, Calcutta. Major Wynne is still in command of the company.

According to the annual report on the British army, just published, the strength of the regular army, army reserve, militia, yeomanry and volunteers, on the 1st October last, was 750,659 men. The regular army numbered 202,411 non-commissioned officers and men. As regards the nationalities of the regulars, 202,562 were Englishmen, 22,422 Scotchmen and 40,467 Irishmen. The "disloyal" Irishmen thus do more in fighting for the Empire than the canny Scotch. In point of religion the Church of England leads the way, as she has always done, with no fewer than 182,963 military adherents who "followed the band"; Roman Catholics were a poor second with 44,119 mass goers; Presbyterians come next with 20,139, mostly dour Scots "shint the pipes," and North of Ireland men; the followers of John Wesley number 13,430; other Protestant "fancy" religions numbered 3,232, and the children of Israel were represented by 185 men. Hindoos, Mahommedans, etc., accounted for 2,909—where was the odd one?—whilst the religion of 206 was not reported. The latter may be class as "unattached."

THE ADMIRAL'S RAI FROM VLADIVOSTOCK

Returns Safely to Port After Sinking the Kinshiu Maru.

St. Petersburg, April 29.—The details of Rear-Admiral Yeszon's raid show that it was entirely successful. The admiral safely brought back his squadron to Vladivostock after inflicting material and moral damage on the enemy. The conduct of the 130 troops remaining on board the Kinshiu Maru in refusing to surrender and firing upon the Russians, even while the transport was sinking, evokes unbounded admiration. "The Japanese are jealous of our Chemulpo heroes," is the popular comment. At the same time, the action of the heroic 130 men did not leave the Russians any alternative. They were obliged to sink the transport, but means to escape were left at the disposal of the 130 Japanese. The papers point out the incredacity of the Japanese claims that Gensan was strongly garrisoned, and believe that the Russian advance from Pleksin bay will not meet with strong resistance. The Kinshiu Maru evidently was conveying reinforcements to Song Jin. Experts here severely criticize the carelessness of sending transports without a convoy. It is expected that the Russian activity in eastern Korea will retard the operations on the Yalu river.

FIRE AT FERNIE CAUSES HEAVY LOSS

Business Section Of Coal Fields Virtually Obliterated---Half Million Is a Modest Estimate.

Fernie, April 29.—The trial by fire which fate appears to decree for almost all Western cities at some time or other in their history—Vancouver, Seattle and New Westminster being pertinent examples—was this morning ordained to find Fernie taken unawares and sadly unprepared; and as a consequence the entire business section of the town is tonight a field of smoking ruins. The sweep of the flames extended almost from the dividing line between the residential and the business district on the western end of the main thoroughfare, Victoria avenue, eastward to the very last of the business blocks, and few there are of the intervening commercial premises that have escaped total demolition with all their contents.

The fire was discovered shortly after 3 o'clock, having originated in the large general store of Ricards & Co., and, gaining such headway as to be quite beyond control of the fire department and citizen volunteers, handicapped as they were by inadequate water supply and primitive apparatus, raged uninterruptedly for almost five hours, in which time it had consumed, at a conservative estimate, no less than half a million dollars' worth of business property.

The extent of the devastation and the town's position may be approximated from the fact that not a single dry goods, clothing or grocery and provision establishment is left to meet the citizens' demands. In its sweep also the fire consumed no fewer than six hotels—these being the Waldorf, the Victoria, the Fernie, Muskoka, Alberta and Royal—the latter, owned by William Tuttle and managed by W. B. Ganong, being easily the largest and best known hostelry in the East Kootenay district.

In addition, the post office, Trite's hall—the scene of all public gatherings in the town—the coal company's offices and the Canadian Bank of Commerce have been swept out of existence; while the Anglican church, historic as the improvised morgue to which the bodies of the victims of the great explosion of five years ago were removed, has shared a similar fate. A partial list of but the heaviest losers of business property is appended:

Richards & Co., general store.
Hazelwood & Suddaby, druggists.
Mitchell & Co., merchant tailors.
Crow's Nest Trading Co., general.
The Trites-Wood Co., general.
Cuthbert & Co., confectioners.
Pyne & Co., fruits and tobaccos.
Fl Blessdell, druggist and stationer.
Fred. Stork, hardware.
McEwing & Stinn, barbers.
J. Hutchinson, tailor.
J. D. Quail, furniture.
J. Sekbell, boots and shoes.
Liphardt, jeweler.
P. Burns & Co., butchers.
Calgary Cattle Co.
Wm. Tuttle, Hotel Royal.
Hotel Victoria.
Alberta Hotel.
The Royal.
Moskoka House.
Fernie Hotel.
Canadian Bank of Commerce.

News of the fire, which comes as a second calamity to the so-called capital of the Crow's Nest coal field, was not received in Victoria until afternoon; and details are even yet obtained with the greatest difficulty and in vexatiously brief and fragmentary fashion. When one takes into consideration the facts that the business structures were, without one exception, of frame, lightly fashioned and very dry, and that the equipment of a fire department from time to time has been deferred until incorporation should have become accomplished, one can realize how utterly helpless were the imperilled community to offer effective resistance to the fire. Indeed, the unpreparedness of Fernie for any visitation by fire had long ago been recognized by the insurance companies, with the result that risks were only accepted on a 10 per cent. premium, and as a secondary consequence the loss not covered by any insurance whatever will be unusually high. In the case of the coal company, the fire but hastens action that had been contemplated in any event, the company having some months ago had plans prepared for a modern structure of stone three stories in height to replace the wooden erection now gone to ashes and debris. The C.N.T Co. building, in which the post office was situated, had also been condemned as utterly unsuitable and inadequate for postal purposes, and assurances had been given Mr. Galliher that it would very shortly be replaced by a more modern and substantial Dominion building. Since the office premises of Doctors Paul Higgins and Corsan, formerly of this city, were within the fire-swept area, it is to be presumed that, although not mentioned in the brief despatches, they, too, are losers to a small extent.

The heaviest losses by the fire, of course, will be upon the stocks of merchandise, which, in anticipation of an exceptionally busy spring and summer (in consequence partially of the building in of the Great Northern line from Morrissey) were more complete perhaps than at any previous period in Fernie's history. Indeed, the half a million estimate of loss as given in despatches, is held by residents now in Victoria—among them Mr. Wm. Blakemore, M. P.—to be considerably under the mark, Mr. Blakemore having been advised by wire that $700,000 or $750,000 will more nearly approximate the damages.

The insurance, it may safely be said, will not be more than $250,000, or $300,000 at the most, carried chiefly by the Western Assurance Company of Toronto of which Senator George A. Cox is president. The stock and building of the Trites-Wood Company would not be worth less than $125,000 or $150,000, all the spring goods having already been received. The heaviest individual loser will be Mr. William Tuttle, whose hotel and contents represented upwards of $80,000 cash investment, with but $15,000 insurance. William Eschwig, proprietor of the Waldorf (formerly the Great Northern), at about the centre of the fire, is another heavy single-handed loser, probably suffering to the extent of $20,000 or thereabouts; while P. Burns & Co., whose building opposite the Bank of Commerce was the best business structure on the street, with its cold storage plant and its contents may be set down at a like figure. Great sympathy will also be felt for Mr. J. D. Quail, a pioneer and most deserving citizen, who had, by unremittent industry and application built up a splendid business, and carried an exceptionally complete furniture and furnishing stock—equal in value to fully $20,000.

In almost every instance the business premises were those of men who had started with the town and developed with it, their losses in consequence representing the accumulated capital of six years of industry, activity and faith in Fernie. Their credit has always been gratifyingly high and there can be no question that courage and perseverance will carry them triumphantly through their present trial.

Happily the yards and mills of the Elk Lumber Company, across the river from the mines and town, and of the East Kootenay Lumber Company, were not within the fire area; and with the promised new brick manufactory ready for business at an early date, assurance is had of ample material for rebuilding close at hand, with which to replace the town that has gone by a twentieth century thoroughfare of brick and iron.

And with incorporation and fire protection the fire may, in time, be voted after all a blessing in disguise.

CAPTAIN'S STORY OF THE TRAGEDY

Commander of Petropavlovsk Tells His Experience of the Explosion.

Moscow, April 29.—The correspondent at Port Arthur of the Ruskaslawo telegraphs that he has had an interview with Captain Jakovleff of the Russian battleship Petropavlovsk. He says the captain will soon be able to start for St. Petersburg. His broken ribs are set and the fracture of his skull is healed. Captain Jakovleff said that a few seconds before the explosion he ran from the coning tower to repeat an order to the man at the helm. On his way he saw Colonel Agapieff writing particulars of the fight which had just taken place. Next to him was Hereetchagin, the artist, hurriedly drawing. All of a sudden the explosion occurred and the deck of the flagship was enveloped in a heavy mist, pierced by tongues of fire bursting through all parts of the vessel.

Captain Jakovleff was then struck on the head and lost consciousness. The same correspondent describes the submarine boat experiments at Port Arthur. He says the experiments proved their ability to remain under water for a considerable time, and that the boats were well handled and that there is a sufficient number of them to assure the protection of Port Arthur, and the coast in its vicinity.

The Chinese in Manchuria, the correspondent further says are praying for a Russian victory.

FATAL HOTEL FIRE.

Lansing, Mich., April 29.—Four bodies have been taken from the Bryan hotel, which was destroyed by fire last night. Several boarders are still missing.

SEIZED RUSSIAN SHIPS.

Nagasaki, April 29.—The case of the Russian steamers captured by the Japanese at the outbreak of the war which was taken over to the naval court of appeals at Sasebo has been dismissed. M. Masijima, a leading member of the Japanese bar, who represented the owners, urged that the antiquated laws bearing upon the case were unsuited to modern conditions of life, and now was an opportunity for Japan to establish a precedent for the benefit of civilization. The captured Russian officers now held in detention at Sasebo will not be released.

ALEXIEFF AGAIN REPORTS THE ENEMY

Japanese Squadron Sighted Off Vladivostock and Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, April 29.—Viceroy Alexieff telegraphs under today's date that Japanese ships were sighted six miles off Port Arthur last night. The viceroy added that this morning ten Japanese cruisers and six torpedo boats were seen in Usurd bay, adjacent to Vladivostock.

Viceroy Alexieff's report that a Japanese squadron was off Port Arthur followed by another announcing that a squadron of Japanese ships was in sight off Vladivostock aroused anxiety in naval circles speculating whether the enemy will venture to approach Vladivostock at closer 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 outposts. The Russians are contesting and harrassing the Japanese advance.

WINTER RELEASES RUSSIAN WARSHIPS

Vessels in the Neva Prepare to Put to Sea For Drill and Exercise.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—It is most certain that the Russian war vessels which have been in dock or under repair at and above Cronstadt have been freed by the opening of navigation and are to put to sea without delay for trial and exercises. Their complements will be increased by naval reserves, who will be transferred after the training thus afforded them, to the battleships, cruisers and destroyers now approaching completion in the various yards.

The London Crystal Palace accommodates more people than any other building in the world. It will hold 100,000 persons.

Togo's Fleet Is Sighted

Viceroy Alexieff Telegraphs This Morning That Squadron Had Reappeared.

Ten Cruisers and Many Torpedo Boats In the Gulf of Usuri.

Disappeared In Fog Without Having Come In Range of Guns.

St. Petersburg, May 1, 2:40 a.m.—In a telegram to the Emperor, dated April 30, Viceroy Alexieff says: "About 2 o'clock yesterday morning four Japanese torpedo boats appeared in the Gulf of Usuri, off the Skrypler lighthouse, but shortly afterwards put out for the open sea again.

It was reported from Askold island at twenty minutes after seven in the morning that ten Japanese cruisers and six torpedo boats were coming up from the south. They steamed first in the direction of the Gulf of Usuri without coming in range. At 10 o'clock in the morning they headed towards Cape Gamova and steamed along Russty island as far as Scott island, eventually disappearing in a southerly direction in a thick fog, which prevented further observations of their movements.

A despatch received from Viceroy Alexieff at 4:38 a. m.: "The continued presence of the Japanese squadron off Vladivostock has convinced the authorities that Vice Adirmal Togo has taken to heart the sharp lesson taught him although his failure to catch the possibilities of mischief by the formidable Russian division at that port and is now seeking means to stop further raiding operations in the Sea of Japan.

"It is evident that as soon as the Japanese were informed of the operation of the' Russian ships in Korean waters, the Government instructed Vice Admiral Togo to detach a strong squadron and send it to Vladivostock to cut off the Russian ships and confine them to the harbor so that they could not go further damage."

A party of 140 Japanese prisoners who were recently removed to Tomsk from Vladivostock, Harbin, China and Dalna, where they were when the war broke out, have been sent to the village of Kolpashevo, 200 miles distant, where they will remain until the opening of navigation. Thence they will be taken to European Russia, either to Perm or Vologda.

According to reports the peasants are treating them to a pair of horses and comfortable sleighs were allowed every two prisoners for their journey to Kolpashevo.

Most of the Japanese, many of whom were merchants, speak Russian. The village schoolhouse at Kolpashevo had been prepared for their accommodation and the peasants brought them food. They talked of the war but displayed not the slightest hostility towards Russia.

How long the government will hold them is not known.

Count Cassini On the War

Clever Diplomat Makes Russia Pose as Injured Innocence.

Unpreparedness the Hypocritical Proof That War Was Not Intended.

New York, April 30.—Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador to the United States, contributes to the forthcoming number of the North American Review an article, in which, under the caption of "Russia and the Far East," he makes a statement of his government's position. After briefly outlining the negotiations which preceded the outbreak of hostilities the ambassador says: "Russia has never ceased to wonder why the idea that she was willing and anxious to make war with Japan, become so generally prevalent. Prejudiced minds of those having nothing beyond a superficial knowledge of my government's actions preceding the unexpected and dishonorable attack upon our fleet at Port Arthur may dispute the statement that Russia hoped for and tried to maintain peace, but I have no hesitation to making it. If proof of the assertion be demanded, it lies in the simple but uncontradicted answer, Russia was not prepared. For the personal representative of the Russian Emperor to make an admission seemingly so humiliating to national pride may appear strong and remarkable, but it is made with full appreciation of its importance and significance. I repeat that Russia was not prepared for war because she had no reason to expect war. In her faith that the negotiations with Japan were being conducted by both parties with the object of reaching an amicable and an honorable adjustment of their differences, she was not conscious that the result was to be anything but peaceful."

Count Cassini denies that Russia was actuated by designs to possess Manchuria or Korea, by force of arms and says: Had Russia desired war, or even had she expected it, no considerations would have induced her to evacuate Chinese territory and thus lose the opportunity of ending the war quickly."

Concerning the negotiations between Russia and Japan Count Cassini avers that his government "in the effort to bring the negotiations to a peaceful conclusion did all that dignity would permit, and offered to give assurances again that the sovereignty of the Emperor of China in Manchuria would be recognized. Having made this marked concession, solely in the interest of peace, my government waited the Japanese answer in the expectation that it would at least be diplomatic in character and would furnish the base for the furtherance of the negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion.

Before the Russian minister at Tokio could deliver this reply the Japanese answer came, not through the regular channels but as a torpedo attack at midnight. Thus, now that the war has come, Russia does not doubt the issue.