

The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XIII

CHATHAM ONT., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1904

NO 36

Annual ... February Carpet AND Curtain Sale.

This is the month in which to buy Carpets and Curtains. Many lines are here that we intend clearing out during the quite seasons. These are choice goods, and if you need anything in Floor Coverings, Lace Curtains or Drapery Curtains you will do well to come in and look the different lines over.

February Carpet and Curtain Sale...

All remnants of Carpets up to 12 yards, including Brussels, Tapestry, Velvet and Unions at

Half-Price.

500 Yards of Tapestry Carpet an Extra Special Bargain, made, laid and lined, at per yd,

68 Cents.

We invite you to come in and let the salemen show you through the stock and quote prices. You will find there are many money-saving opportunities.

THOS. STONE & SON
IMPORTERS

GEO. STEPHENS & CO.

Stock taking is over. We find too much on hand.

Granite ware with five year guarantee.

Thware of our own make at prices lower than ever heard of in Chatham before.

Harness from our hand sewed, selected leathers stock.

Trays and servers, silver, nickle. Japan, brass, all styles, exceedingly low.

GEO. STEPHENS & CO.

We Don't Have To

Boast of the quality of our goods. We have been in business a long time, and the large amount of business done is proof to us that the people understand the quality.

Our Prices Are

Six pounds broken Sodas, 25c.
Four pounds Ginger, Snaps, 25c.
Four pounds Prunes 25c.
Pickles, 10c a bottle.
Salmon, 10c a can.
Seven pounds best rolled oats 25c.
Three pounds White Beans, 10c.
Clothes pins, 1c a dozen.

My, O My!

We have a lot of crockery still to be disposed of. Dinner, Tea and Chamber Sets, China, Lamps, and Glassware. Come and see us if you need the goods. We will make the price right.

John McConnell,

Phone 100, Park St.

FIRST SHOTS FIRED IN THE WAR IN THE FAR EAST

Japs Attacked Russian Ships—Japan's Torpedo Boats Damage Three of Czar's Squadron.

Official Report of Attack Received at St. Petersburg—Troops Move Toward Korea—Occupation of Seoul a Hope of the Japanese—Canadian Liners sold to Japan.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—An official despatch says that Japanese torpedo boats have attacked the Russian squadron in the outer roads of Port Arthur and that three of the Russian ships were damaged.

Admiral Alexieff's despatch is as follows:

"I most respectfully inform your majesty that at about night of Feb. 8 or 9 Japanese torpedo boats made a sudden attack upon Russian squadron in the outer roads at Port Arthur, in which the battleships Retvizan, Carevitch and Tarlada were damaged. An inspection is being made to ascertain the character of the damage. Details are following to your majesty."

London, Tuesday, Feb. 9.—The Che-Foo correspondent of the Daily Mail cables that Japanese transports are landing troops at various ports in Korea from Masampo and Fusan, on the south, to Kusan, Mokpo and Chemulpo on the west. Seoul is to be occupied and the landing is being covered by a torpedo division. The main body of the Japanese fleet, the correspondent concludes, will sail in the direction of Port Arthur.

THE NEWS AT BERLIN.
A despatch received at Berlin from Port Arthur says news has been received there that Japanese troops have been landed at Masampo. The despatch says further that the Russian warships at Port Arthur frequently put to sea, and that the inhabitants of Seoul are uneasily expecting the arrival of the Japanese troops.

FIRING HEARD.
In a despatch from Tokio a correspondent of the Daily Mail says the Jiji Shimpu has received a telegram from Fusan, Corea, declaring that the firing of guns was heard to the east of Koko Island, about 25 miles south-west of Fusan, at 8 o'clock Sunday morning.

TO ENSURE CHINA'S NEUTRALITY.

The Paris correspondent of the Daily Mail says that France has agreed with other powers to land troops in China directly hostilities begin, in order to insure neutrality of the middle kingdom.

PREPARING FOR FLIGHT.

In a despatch from Tien-Tsin a correspondent of the Standard says a Russian force is reported at Kalgan in Pe-Chi-Li province, 110 miles north of Peking, and near the Great Wall, and that preparations are being made for the flight of the Chinese court and the removal of the Imperial treasure, as it is feared that Russia will descend upon Peking.

RUSSIA SEEKS A LOAN.

"Russia is negotiating with a syndicate of French, Belgian and Dutch bankers," cables the Brussels correspondent of the Standard, for a loan of \$200,000,000."

RUSSIA'S FLEET WILL FIGHT.

In a despatch from Nagasaki, dated Feb. 8, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says:—"It is assured that the Russian fleet will fight. The Russians long ago decided upon war, and their delay was due to lack of preparation and uncertainty whether certain powers would intervene or not."

RUSSIA PROVOKED THE CRISIS.

In a despatch dated Nagasaki, Feb. 6, and which was delayed by the censor, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph asserts that Russia deliberately provoked the crisis by secretly dispatching a few days ago from Port Arthur transports loaded with a full division of troops, and escorted by a fleet, and landing them near the Yain River, thus occupying Northern Corea. Japanese patience became exasperated, and to-day Japan moved her ships and took unreluctant possession of certain merchant vessels, including the Shikoku and Manchuria. The correspondent continues:—"Two other Russian vessels were seized and escorted to Sasebo, Japan." The Daily Telegraph

WAR CAN'T BE AVOIDED.

The Russian embassy at Berlin says war probably cannot be avoided, and that mediation by other powers is wholly out of the question.

CAPTURED BY JAPS.

Berlin, Feb. 8.—The Conservative Deutsche Tageszeitung affirms, upon diplomatic authority that three Russian ships have been captured by the Japanese. The correspondent of the Associated Press finds no official confirmation of the statement.

REPORT REITERATED.

Paris, Feb. 8.—The papers here publish "on high authority," the report (first circulated in Berlin) that Japanese warships have captured some Russian merchantships in Chinese waters. The report lacks confirmation in official circles here, as well as in Berlin.

FIGHTING NOT LOOKED FOR IMMEDIATELY.

The latest official despatches received at the Foreign Office indicate that actual hostilities are not likely to break out immediately. This was shown by two despatches saying the Russian Minister, the Japanese Minister to Russia, and Baron de Rosen, the Russian Minister to Japan, still remained at St. Petersburg and Tokio respectively.

SEIZED TRADING STEAMERS.

London, Feb. 8.—A special despatch from Berlin says that a strong fleet of Japanese warships, reported to be on its way to Chemulpo, Corea, has seized several Russian trading steamers.

DISCREDITED.

London, Feb. 8.—The rumor that some Russian merchant ships have been captured by Japan warships has been discounted by the Japanese legation here. The report is discounted at the legation, and it lacks confirmation.

BRITAIN WIDE AWAKE.

London, Feb. 8.—Earl Percy, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, announced in the House of Commons today that Great Britain intended to send consuls to Mukden and Antung, recently opened to the commerce of the world under the treaty between the United States and China. RUSSIA HAS OTHERS TO RECKON WITH.

The St. James' Gazette asserts on diplomatic authority that, assuming Russia defeats Japan, she will be confronted with a demand for the acknowledgment of Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria from Great Britain and the United States, and that she must either grant it or fight both countries. An understanding, the paper adds, has been reached in this sense between the United States and Great Britain.

WAR INEVITABLE.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—The situation is such that the authorities are prepared at any moment to hear that Japan has made an aggressive move, which would make a semblance of peace any longer impossible. War is regarded here as practically inevitable, and the general impression among military men is that once the torch of war is lighted it will be the signal for a long and bitter contest, with no chance to place limits on the extent of the conflagration. In the first hours of excitement after the receipt of the news of Japanese action, the Imperial train was ordered to be prepared to start for Moscow, but since then calm counsels prevailed, and the order was countermanded. It is a question whether the Czar will go to Moscow at all. Certainly no manifesto will be issued until war is actually on. M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, says he will leave St. Petersburg Wednesday morning. The United States embassy probably will look after questions involving the protection of Japanese subjects. Ambassador McCormick, under instructions to-day, asked Foreign Minister Lamsdorff, if Russia objected.

GREAT RUSH TO ROBIN HOOD

Enormous Advance Sale in Wallaceburg, Dresden and the Maple City

Special Train for Visitors on Friday Night—Warm Words of Praise for Work Done

"The greatest advance sale in the history of the house," such was the comment of Manager Fred H. Bruce two hours after the phenomenal reserve sale for the incomparable "Robin Hood" opened this morning, when the demand was still unabated and the store was still filled with applicants.

When the piece of the tickets are considered, the sale was simply marvellous. It demonstrated that the Maple City is prepared to heartily co-operate and support the efforts of the 24th Regiment to place before the citizens "the best." No trouble or expense has been spared to make the production of this king of all systems comique perfect in every detail, and these efforts have been awarded with the greatest financial success ever accorded a production in Chatham.

Stage Director Harry Clarke, manager of the Detroit Dramatic Agency and School of Rehearsal, said at the conclusion of last night's work: "I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that if you put on Robin Hood on Thursday night, as you have rehearsed it to-night, it will be by far the greatest and grandest amateur production I have ever witnessed."

"Ah," said George Perrin as he mingled in the crush sale this morning, "this takes me back to the days when I was treasurer of the Grand Opera House in Toronto and handled the crush for the Sir Henry Irving sale."

Robin Hood is assured of two magnificent nights. Chathamites are loyally attending to Dundonald night, while the plan for Friday has been well sold out in the outside towns.

Yesterday Adjutant Collett and Color Sergeant John E. Smith put in the day opening the plan at Dresden, where a capital advance was registered.

At Wallaceburg a phenomenal sale was registered. J. W. Plewes, W. W. Tackaberry and Wilfrid M. Smith were in charge there and did magnificent work. The sale opened with a regular rush, and tickets went in lively style. The good people of Wallaceburg are enthusiastic and an immense contingent are coming over.

The plan for Dresden is at Wilson's drug store, that of Wallaceburg at Leigh's book store.

General Superintendent W. W. Woolfart telephoned the officers of the regiment that full arrangements had been completed for the big Wallaceburg and Dresden special train on Friday evening at special single fare rates, which will take the throng of visitors home after the great production.

ANOTHER TORONTO SCHOOL BURNED

800 Children Marched Out in a Few Minutes

And Not One Injured—One Teacher Almost Overcome by Heat and Smoke

Toronto, Feb. 8.—For the second time within a month a Toronto public school has been gutted by fire.

At 11.40 to-day J. W. Hendry, principal of Jesse Ketchum school, corner of Davenport Road and Jesse Ketchum avenue, discovered smoke issuing from the cellar, immediately under the kindergarten room. He hastily informed all the teachers, who in turn instructed their scholars to dress as speedily as possible, and the fire alarm was then sounded.

Inside of five minutes the 800 scholars were formed into line, marched speedily into the yards, and dismissed. No one was injured.

In the meantime a fire alarm had been sounded, which was responded to by the Yonge street brigade, and a few minutes later a general alarm was rung in. A number of the school children rushed back to their rooms, and in the blinding smoke carried out the cadets corps' guns and uniforms, typewriters, books and other school requisites.

In the confusion it was forgotten that Miss Brown, one of the teachers, was not out of her room. Mr. Hendry rushed into the building and found Miss Brown almost overcome with the heat and smoke. He helped her down stairs and out into the open air. As soon as she had recovered herself Miss Brown went back in her room and carried out a number of her scholars' wraps.

The fire, which is supposed to have been caused by an overheated flue, was a most stubborn one, and the smoke was so dense and the steam so hot that the firemen's efforts for nearly an hour were merely guesswork. The air passages in the walls and floors allowed the fire to make rapid headway.

YOUR CHOICE FOR 25c.

When I was in Toronto last week I bought 400 books that were slightly damaged or imperfect. These are now in stock and placed on our

Bargain Table at Less Than One-Quarter the Regular Prices.

Among them are "Letters of a Self-made Merchant," "Lovely Mary," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," and many other up-to-date books.

Your choice of 200 titles.

25c. Each.....

Call early and get first choice as there is not more than three of any one title.

This is the greatest book bargain ever offered in Chatham.

Sulman's Beehive

Opp. Garner House, King and Sixth Sts.

FOR
\$2.00

You can buy

**Men's Box
Calf Bals.
Goodyear
Welt Shoes**

Regular \$3.50
and \$3.00...

In the following sizes

8-6, 4-7,
5-8, 8-9,
and 4-10

THESE SHOES ARE
ALL ON GOOD SHAPED LAST.

TURRILL
The Shoe Man

Repairing done at store.
King Street

THIS IS THE
SECOND DAY
before the presentation of
"ROBIN HOOD"
The Greatest Classic Opera Comique.
Don't Miss Dundonald Night...
Thursday, Feb. 11