

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1904.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 27, 1904.

THE GREAT SIEGE.

The Japanese have not yet taken Port Arthur, but they are taking it. The fighting reported yesterday is said to give them a much coveted position within a mile and a half of the city. They are said to have 450 guns, 150 of which are siege guns. If half of the siege guns were so placed as to command the principal defences at fair range the siege would be over. The Russians, the reports say, are defending twelve miles of works with 23,000 men. Even if they have 30,000 the duty is too desperate to be continued.

Port Arthur has been closely besieged for a little more than three months, and the garrison has fought with great courage, yet the fortress has failed to be taken before its defenders had reduced to the extremities which have marked the defence in many of the historic sieges. The Russians will not be starved out, apparently, but beaten by the sheer weight of the men and guns before them. While there has been desperate fighting of late the Japanese have not attempted to take the city by storm as that term is generally used. All of the stories that they have done so have been discredited. They have driven the defenders from position after position, in the main by artillery fire. When the guns have made a position untenable the Japanese have occupied it and mounted batteries there to pound the position beyond, where the Russians have made the next stand. No doubt the Japanese are prepared to pour an overwhelming force through the inner line of defence as soon as the siege guns have shaken it at the weakest point, and the shells have caused the enemy's fire to weaken. The Japanese problem has been to get their heavy artillery into effective positions. It has been said that the ground near the principal defences is mined extensively, and it may be that the final stages of the besiegers' advance is of necessity cautious.

The defence is stubborn, yet if the Japanese are as near success today as the reports indicate, the siege will be regarded as short, for Port Arthur's defences were said to be marvellous, and modern weapons give the defenders of a fortress many advantages which were unknown to the people of Vicksburg and Petersburg. The Russian belief that Port Arthur was impregnable, or even that it could hold out for a year, is heard no longer. St. Petersburg is preparing for bad news, and is becoming resigned in advance.

SHIP AGAINST SHIP.

A detailed account of the action in which the fast Russian cruiser Novik was driven ashore shows that while two Japanese cruisers took part in the affair, the Novik was really beaten and driven ashore by the Teishima alone. Thus the fight takes on a peculiar interest because in reality it was a duel fought practically to a finish by ships of the greyhound class. The Russian fought pluckily, but the superior weight of the Japanese battery and the accuracy of the Japanese gunners made the victory quick and decisive. The Novik is—or was—a naval freak. Though her tonnage is given as 3,000 she was frequently spoken of as a destroyer. She had the nominal speed of a destroyer—twenty-five knots—but she is more than four times as large as the destroyer proper, and was in fact a remarkably fast and virtually unarmored cruiser. Her main battery consisted of six 4.7 guns. She was, therefore, a very "handy" ship, but not likely to be of much service in engagements with an enemy mounting heavy guns.

The Teishima is a protected cruiser of 4,800 tons, carrying two 8-inch, ten 4.7-inch and twelve 3-inch quick-firing guns, a tremendous armament for her size. Her speed when launched was twenty-three knots, and it is assumed that she had seen less hard service of late than the Novik there was little difference in speed. But the Japanese, not counting her two 8-inch rifles, was greatly the Russian's superior in gun-fire. It was possible to pound the Novik with the big guns at a range over which the smaller vessels' 4.7 guns would be of little use. But the Teishima had been long in chase, and there was no intention to give the quarry a chance to slip away. The action was maintained at a range over which the Novik's main battery was effective, for the Japanese cruiser received two shells which penetrated to her coal bunkers and damaged her considerably, even though she is said to have had no casualties. But

the Russian could not keep it up. The odds in armament and the manner in which the Japanese guns were handled drove the lighter vessel ashore, either because damage rendered her uncontrollable or because her commander was forced by the fearful punishment sustained to run her aground and attempt to save the remainder of his men from death. After the Novik had been mortally hurt the Teishima drew off, somewhat shaken and leaking, and her companion ship, the Chitose, subsequently shelled the Russian while she lay aground and her men were leaving her.

In this single ship action as in the fleet engagements the Japanese inflicted great damage while receiving little. Success on such terms is doubly valuable. Wariness, coolness, scientific gunnery and fine seamanship have marked almost every performance of the Islanders on the sea. Like the more important of the recent naval battles, this duel between cruisers emphasizes the value of the long-range gun. The 12-inch and 8-inch rifles fired from heavily protected ships do the damage. The 6-inch and 5-inch guns are losing their reputation. The battleship of the future, while carrying many machine guns for withstanding torpedo boat attack, will probably carry more great guns and fewer of intermediate size than are now the rule on ships of the line.

THE THANKFUL CZAR.

When an heir was born to Russia the Czar was expected to make liberal concessions to his people to mark his joy and thankfulness over the long-hoped-for event. It was even suggested in some quarters that the Emperor's thankful and merciful mood, together with the tragic removal of M. de Plehve and all that was implied by the assassination, might impel him to take steps looking to the erection of a parliament. A summary of the Imperial proclamation following the birth of the carevich shows that while the Emperor will do something to lighten the load carried by his more helpless subjects, he is neither so thankful nor so chastened as to make any very radical changes.

Corporal punishment of peasants is to be abolished, and soldiers and sailors are not to be flogged in future for first offences. The Jews and the Finlanders who have offended the state by avoiding military service are to be forgiven; but we must suppose that those of this class who have not already been punished as fully as the authorities desire are fugitives who do not require the tardy decree of mercy. Finlanders who have emigrated without permission are to be exempt from punishment for their offence. But, long as the Czar's arm is, punishment could scarcely reach those who have left his dominions, and they will be most unlikely to return now. Political offenders who have not been concerned in murders are to go free, but probably those suspected of direct or indirect participation in assassination plots will remain in prison, whatever the nature of the evidence against them, and such a law would include more than will be released.

The Czar is not inclined to depart greatly from the Russian policy in matters affecting the liberty of his people, or, if he is so inclined, the bureaucrats prevent him from following his inclinations.

THE FIGHT FOR A STATE.

Elections in Maine and Vermont are to be held next month, and the reduction of the Republican majority in the latter state is awaited as likely to show whether the wind this year blows Republican or Democratic. But while the results in these states may give some indication as to the trend of popular sentiment, the meaning of the majorities as affecting the presidential campaign may be far from clear. New York with its thirty-nine electoral votes, which are held indispensable to Democratic victory in November, is now and will be the centre of fighting interest. And affairs there become more complicated daily.

It was said recently by a sarcastic sound money Democrat that even if Bryan took the stump for Parker in New York he could not do the ticket material harm. But if Bryan's advocacy is now as harmful as his opposition would be, the Democrats have other troubles. Mr. Richard Croker, it is announced, is about to make one of his anti-election appearances on American soil, and if there is any one man the respectable Democrats do not desire to see at this time he is Mr. Croker, the self-deposed and therefore not altogether disposed boss of Tammany Hall. The mantle of Croker fell upon Murphy. Murphy is at daggers drawn with McCarran, the Brooklyn leader. McCarran is the ally of Hill and another Murphy—the Troy senator—and Judge Parker, who cannot depose the New York Murphy, presumably dare not depose McCarran. To secure in Greater New York a majority big enough to overcome the Republican lead up the state, Tammany's whole-hearted support is necessary. The coming of Croker may mean defeat for McCarran in the present fight for recognition, or it may mean that the strife will become more acute and cannot be settled before it has greatly impaired the strength of the Democrats.

The trouble is not all in one camp. The Republicans have some. Mr. Elihu Root, formerly secretary of war, was declared as Republican candidate for governor. He was President Roosevelt's choice, but not the choice of Governor Odell.

The New York Sun sought to have Mr. Root nominated, saying a decent Republican governor was necessary to "alleviate the grocery conditions" at Albany—thus paying its respects to Governor Odell. But Mr. Root has written to Senator Platt saying that he will not run, and there is talk of nominating Mr. Timothy L. Woodruff, of Brooklyn, a wealthy and genial person best known for his remarkable taste in fancy waistcoats. Mr. Root would have been a very strong candidate. Mr. Woodruff is by no means strong. Another may be chosen, but no one of commanding strength is in sight. The Democrats may run Mr. Lamont, Cleveland's secretary, or Mr. John B. Stanchfield, of Elmira, either of whom would be hard to beat if the Democracy in the city proper were united and could roll up an old time majority.

Under the circumstances a great deal depends upon how successful the party general are in burying the many hatchets and sheathing the numerous knives which now shine in the hands of the faction leaders in New York. Without New York Judge Parker's bid for the presidency would be hopeless.

SHRINKING REPRESENTATION.

In Ontario and other quarters the view has been expressed that New Brunswick and P. E. Island will not suffer from further reduction in the number of their representatives, and that the matter is of little consequence, anyway. The Charlotte-Town Guardian asks whether Ontario would be quite as philosophical if its original representation of eighty-two members had been reduced to fifty-five. Had that occurred Ontario would be very likely to display more interest in the question, and less inclined to set it aside as of little importance. Prince Edward Island, which had six members when it entered the Confederation, has but four now, and may lose another before long according to the Guardian. In ten years the Island has lost a third of its representatives.

"If it might hope to retain perpetually even four members," says the Guardian, "the case would not be so bad as it now appears. We are compelled to face a future in the matter of representation that is not promising. Twenty-five thousand one hundred is now the unit of population per member. Quebec increased in population by 100,000 between 1881 and 1901. A further increase of 300,000 in the current decade would raise the unit of representation to 30,000 by 1911. And by that time, owing to the steady drift of the Island's population to the West, we can hardly hope to retain more than 100,000 people in Prince Edward Island. But should we still have our present number of people—103,338—the 30,000 unit of representation would entitle the Island to only three representatives in the Commons. It is therefore not only quite possible but fairly probable that the next Redistribution Bill may give Prince Edward Island but three members in the popular Chamber. In that case one-half of our original representation would be swept away."

New Brunswick is in a position to sympathize with the Islanders in this matter. Unfortunately we cannot share Ontario's complacency.

WHAT WILL RUSSIA DO?

When the Japanese so suddenly began hostilities Russia was caught with her fleets widely separated, an insufficient land force in the Far East and with her railway communications uncompleted. Her prestige has suffered and her losses have been bitter—Makarov, Von Keller, Wittboft and a host of brave men who perished beside them. With Russia's vast reserves in men and millions, it is not in nature that she should make a humiliating peace with her foe upon a disastrous termination of this first campaign waged under disadvantageous conditions.—New York Herald.

The Herald's idea is that the fall of Port Arthur, even if accompanied by the defeat of General Kurapatkin, will only intensify Russia's determination "to proceed to the bitter end."

The "determining," however, presents fewer difficulties than the "proceeding." It is true that Russia was unprepared, that her fleets were separated, and that her railway communications were uncompleted. But suppose Russia determines to proceed to the bitter end, how well she goes about it! The battle ground is Manchuria. Russia cannot double-track the Siberian railroad, however fierce her determination. The separation of her fleets at a critical moment was not merely a handicap to be overcome later on; it was a fatal error. She cannot now or in the near future assemble in Eastern waters a naval force which could keep the seas. Japan cannot be attacked at home. Even Japanese commerce cannot be endangered now.

If there is to be a second campaign in this war it would mean that Russia must draw upon her "vast reserves in men and millions" to whip Japan in Manchuria, or conquer the territory north and west of Corea and overrun Corea itself. Judging by the continued failure of the overburdened single-track railroad upon which she depended, Russia cannot now forward to the seat of war reserves enough to drive General Kuroki from General Kurapatkin's flank and strengthen the Russian main body to the point where it can assume the defensive.

There can be no second campaign of importance until Russia can match or more than match Japan with soldiers in Manchuria. Tokio is within 1,000 miles

of Port Arthur, and Japan has the cheapest possible transportation. The Japanese are flushed with victory and the people are ready to a man to do the Mikado's bidding. The Russian population is to some extent disaffected and to a greater extent unenthusiastic. And Russia's vast reserves are useless for the purposes of this war unless she can pour them into Manchuria in a resolute tide. If she cannot give General Kurapatkin or his successor half a million men he must continue to move north, and every mile of territory yielded spells defeat. Just how Russia, however "grimly determined," is going to "proceed to the bitter end" is not very clear at this stage.

SURE MESSENGERS.

There will be an end now to the Russian practice of stopping British merchant vessels. Two British cruisers have been despatched from Cape Town to find the Russian Smolensk and St. Petersburg and carry to their commanders orders from St. Petersburg to desist immediately from their harrying of British commerce. Mr. Balfour, in making this statement, adds significantly that should any further seizures be made after this warning is delivered, such seizures would not, of course, be recognized by Britain or Russia. The British cruisers, in other words, will make sure that the Russians not only receive the orders but that they obey them as well.

The British government, by taking St. Petersburg at its word, does much to relieve the apprehension of British shippers, which had become intolerable. Russia had promised that her troublesome ships would not repeat the Red Sea outrages. The promise had scarcely been known throughout the British Empire before the steamer Comedian put into Durban and reported that she had been searched by a vessel of the Smolensk type off the African coast. Called upon sharply to explain this breach of faith, Russia replied that the orders sent to the Smolensk and St. Petersburg could not have reached them, and asked the British to assist her in conveying the requisite intelligence to their commanders. This is an unusual duty for the British government to undertake, but it affords a chance to end the harassing of British merchant ships without delay or further "representations," and it is certain now that if the Russian commanders get their orders through British channels they will at least get them, and there will be no further non-prosecution. Russia will no longer be able to plead that her ships are beyond the reach of her commands. The British cruisers will be sure messengers and effective ones. They will be fast and formidable. The Russian volunteer steamers which have caused the trouble are neither.

British patience was coming to an end. It had been noticed that British and German merchant vessels were not treated in the same way by the Russians. There was some indication of a tacit understanding between Berlin and St. Petersburg. Irregular seizures at sea, in any event, would affect the British beyond any amount of compensation. The number of British carriers aloft in every ocean. The merchants—ask the men in the street!—had begun to ask, angrily, why a great navy was swarming into a roar. Mr. Balfour has said much and intimated more. A few days ago marine insurance rates in London were three times as great as in Hamburg. The despatch of the British cruisers will go far towards making the rate uniform.

CAMPAIGN FUNDS.

Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, who is said to be dying, is unique in that he never expended a dollar to secure his election. Other members of the United States Senate are believed to have spent from \$50,000 to half a million or more for their seats. The cost of electing Lincoln in 1860, according to estimate in Harper's Weekly, was \$200,000. The Republicans spent about \$1,000,000 to elect Hayes and Tilden. This year when the great capital is divided, the campaign expenses of both sides, "legitimate" and otherwise, will be equal to the cost of a short war.

The big amounts go into the doubtful states. Votes and workers in Vermont and Maine which are surely Republican, and in the "solid" Southern States where Democratic victory is certain, will be worth little. But money will be poured into New York, Indiana, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and other states which are regarded as uncertain. In the effort to swing the doubtful states this way or that the bulk of the campaign funds will be expended. Where the "gratians" are especially hungry and bold some of the money will be divided among those who are supposed to spend it. So large is the fund may be, it is necessary to subtract something on account of itching palms among the sub-tenants.

The "legitimate" expenses in themselves are large. "Spellbinders" receive from fifty to \$100 a week, and some more than that. To maintain a national headquarters costs some \$3,000 a day for two months. Printing, bands, torchlight processions, halls, and other methods of "whooping it up," come high. Some men and some "interests" contribute voluntarily. In many cases both men and corporations, whose interests may be affected, are practically fined every four years. Harper's tells, in a most matter-of-fact style, something about the raising of the sinews of war.

The Canada Eastern purchase was applauded by the Moncton Transcript, but

may be affected, are practically fined every four years. Harper's tells, in a most matter-of-fact style, something about the raising of the sinews of war.

"The sources of contributions upon which both sides count are, first, the business interests, especially those affected by the leading issue of the campaign. In years when the tariff or finance is the all-absorbing topic, contributions from such a source are very heavy. This was so in 1888, as well as in 1902, and, so far as the Republicans were concerned, in 1896 and 1900, though it is said that the silver-mine owners contributed very heavily to the Democratic campaign funds in both years. The office holders are the next source. While it is true that there is a law against their contributing, and the impression prevails on the part of the party in power a percentage of their salaries, as fixed by the campaign committee or the treasurer of the national committee. There is, in addition, a small class of wealthy men, who are not practical politicians, but ambitious to hold public office, and they are heavy contributors."

Senator Hanna was thought to have broken all records in the matter of raising campaign funds in 1896, when Bryan and silver frightened conservative business men. There is reason to believe that the Republicans will have as much money this year as they did in 1896, and the Democrats will have much more than they have had since 1888.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Baptists have made a distinct step towards union, but some details remain to be settled. The prospects for a complete agreement appear bright.

The exhibition is being well advertised this year. The amusement feature promises to be unusually attractive. There should easily be a new attendance record in September.

Tokio says the final assault is about to be made at Port Arthur and that the bloodiest action since Sedan is expected. This is a grim forecast, but it is probably accurate enough.

The log on the Penobscot and throughout Maine will be much smaller this winter than it was last. The pulp wood cut will be larger than before, but the saw mill men are discouraged by the market and the outlook.

Wheat prices rise and fall, but the tendency is upward. Discussion of the price of foodstuffs revives some old figures. In 1860-11, when Napoleon was threatening England, wheat in London sold for \$3.25 a bushel, and the demand exceeded the supply.

Weinsheimer, the leader of the New York building trades union, who is under indictment for extortion, is out on bail and proposes to head the Labor Day parade. "Sam" Parks, who was indicted for extortion, led the parade a year ago. He died in Sing Sing. Evidently Weinsheimer is not superstitious.

Wireless telegraphy as an aid to the protection of the United States government forest reserves is to be tested by the department of agriculture. The idea is to have an automatic service which will give the alarm to the forest rangers. The reserves will be divided into sections, with an alarm and receiving stations in each.

Mr. James Jeffries is not in President Roosevelt's class, but he also is a man with a record for strenuousness and the sporting quality across the line regards him as a better betting proposition than the president. The odds on Jeffries are quoted as ten to four. Those on the strenuous president are not so long.

"Don't, I pray you, do as Caesar and Pompeii do. Don't let this country go as Rome did!"

Such are said to be the words used by Mr. Henry G. Davis, Democratic vice-presidential candidate, in discussing "Imperialism." Though he is eighty-two Mr. Davis is evidently an orator who will make things hum.

Less by training. But there are thousands in the middle walks of life who are home-steaders merely and seeking lands with which to make homes. North of the main line of the Canadian Pacific there is a wide strip of territory settled almost entirely by Americans. They helped the Canadians celebrate Dominion Day in great numbers and were as enthusiastic as the New England Yankees and their children will all in time become Canadians.

There is room in Canada for all who are ready to work and observe the laws, and celebrate Dominion Day.

Speaking of the elections the Toronto News says that "although the Premier and his colleagues have not yet decided or decided the question of a dissolution, the impression is growing that before very many weeks have passed the Federal elections will be spring upon the country."

The News gives a list of candidates already formally nominated or whose candidature is regarded as certain. The list includes both Mr. Hale and Mr. F. B. Curvell in Carleton county, and Mr. Daniel Gilmour in Charlotte. In St. John, Kings and Albert, Carleton and Westmorland the News' list is largely guesswork.

Close Saturday at 1 o'clock

St. John, N. B., Aug. 27, 1904

New Fall Suits.

Our New Fall stock of Men's and Boys' suits have arrived. They are by far the best in value, the newest patterns, the best in make and lining we have ever shown. They include all the new shades and shapes. You should not miss seeing this very excellent stock. The prices have all been marked with a view of keeping up the reputation of giving the best Clothing values in St. John.

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WYOMOUTH LADY THROWN FROM CARRIAGE AND INSTANTLY KILLED.

Mrs. Norman Jones, Wife of Collector of Customs, Had Neck Broken in Runaway—Daughter, Who Was With Her, Uninjured.

Digby, N. S., Aug. 22.—(Special)—A telephone message from Weymouth announces a fatal driving accident which occurred in that town late this afternoon. Mrs. Norman Jones, wife of the customs collector at that port, was leaving her residence for a drive, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Henry Yellon, when the horse became frightened and the carriage was turned over, throwing out the occupants.

Mrs. Jones struck on her head, breaking her neck, causing instant death. Mrs. Yellon escaped uninjured. The deceased lady was 65 years of age and leaves besides a grief-stricken husband, three sons and one daughter. The sons are James Jones, of the Royal Bank, Woodstock (N. B.); Brenton Jones, of Weymouth, and Henry, who resides in the Western States. Mrs. Jones was a daughter of the late Rev. James Moody, for many years a rector in Weymouth, and leaves many friends and relatives in that town, among whom is a sister, Mrs. Edward Viets. She was an enthusiastic member of the Church of England and will be greatly missed in church and social circles in Weymouth and vicinity. She had many friends in Digby who regret to learn of her sad death.

Maritime B. Y. P. U. Officers.
Turo, N. S., Aug. 24.—At a meeting of the Maritime B. Y. P. U. in connection with the Baptist convention on Tuesday 24th, the following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President, A. E. Wall, Windsor; vice-president, J. K. Ross, Charlottetown; Rev. G. A. Lawson, Bass River; assistant secretary, A. H. Chipman, St. John; auditor, Perley Davidson, Bass River. Association secretaries: Rev. W. R. Robinson, Gibson (N. B. West); Rev. H. H. Roach, St. John (N. B. South); Rev. Dr. Brown, Hopewell (N. B. East); Rev. H. S. Esterhuysen, Springhill (N. S. East); Rev. D. E. Hatt, Chatham (N. S. Central); O. P. Goucher, Middleton (N. S. Western); John P. Gordon, Charlottetown (P. E. I.). Editor—Rev. B. H. Thomas, Dorchester.

Cottage pudding is agreeably varied by the addition of buckwheat. Try this recipe. Boil the size of an egg, one cupful of sugar, one egg, one cupful of milk, two cupfuls of flour, two spoonfuls of baking powder, one large cupful of berries. Serve hot, for dessert.

"If anybody ever puts up a stained glass window to my memory," said the Bishop of Chester the other day, "I bore his guest will walk."

"The Japanese character for 'dew' and for 'Russia' is identical."

Free Trial For 90 Days.

Not a penny down, simply drop me a post card with your name and I will forward you one of my latest Improved High Grade Electric Belts Free. You can use it three months, then say me if it cures, and the price will be only \$1.00. If it does not cure, you return it to me at my expense and Your Word Will Decide. I am willing to trust you entirely, knowing that I have the best and most perfect Belt ever invented and nine out of ten always pay when ordered.

I WILL TRUST YOU
This modern Belt is the only one that generates a powerful therapeutic current of electricity with its unique battery of zinc and copper cells in all cases it is guaranteed never to hurt. It is a certain and positive cure in all cases of Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Losses, Back, Nervousness, Kidney, Liver and Stomach Troubles and weakness brought on by abuse and excess.

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2362 St. Catherine St., Montreal, Que.