

A PEACE WITHIN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS; RUSSIA NOW HAS THE JAPANESE TERMS; REPORT CONFIRMED IN HIGHEST CIRCLES

General Linévitch Continues to Withdraw His Forces Toward Harbin.

Figures Show Russia Has Half Million in Killed, Wounded and Prisoners.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—The information contained in these dispatches for over a week regarding the change in Emperor Nicholas' attitude concerning the advisability of making a pacific proposal to Japan is fully confirmed, and in very high quarters peace within six weeks is regarded as certain. The positiveness with which this is affirmed would indicate that the Government is already in possession of information as to the Japanese terms, which indicate a basis on which they can agree.

The exact situation is shrouded in mystery. The secret of what has been done and what is being done is zealously guarded. The Associated Press hears, however, from a source close to the throne, that negotiations are actually in progress in Paris, but possibly only of a preliminary character, and that Copenhagen may be the scene of the first exchanges between representatives of the two powers. In this connection, importance is being attached to the visit on Tuesday of M. D'Iskowsky, Russian minister at Copenhagen, and Baron Rosen, former Russian minister to Japan, to M. Bompard, the French ambassador to Russia.

The parties to this conference refuse to admit that significance is attached to it. In the meantime the foreign office is silent.

St. Petersburg, March 25, 1:50 p.m.—General Linévitch continues the retirement of the bulk of his army northward.

The general staff now declares it is certain that Field Marshal Oyama has been compelled to relinquish the idea of a pursuit in force for the present. The Japanese forces on the Russian flanks are too light to constitute a serious danger, and a full in heavy fighting for several weeks if not months is predicted by some of the correspondents. A Russian correspondent warns the St. Petersburg authorities of the dangers of Japanese activity in Mongolia, where he says their emissaries are enlisting the lamas and arousing their old warlike spirit.

Lost Half Million.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—Stung by the wholesale criticism lately heaped upon the war office for its unpreparedness and incapacity in providing the Manchurian army with men, guns and munitions, the Army Office today says here what has been done since the opening of hostilities, giving the exact figures. From these it appears that up to March 12, the war office had dispatched 13,087 officers, 761,467 men, 146,408 horses, 1,521 guns and 236,321 tons of munitions and supplies to the front, declaring the transportation strained the Siberian Railroad to its utmost capacity. The Army Office admits that the army in the far east when the war opened, was hardly worth the name (no figures being given) but it is known that the troops did not exceed 60,000 men, depending this on the ground that Emperor Nicholas desired to avoid war and therefore refrained from sending reinforcements which surely would have provoked it.

The criticism of the war office's failure adequately to supply Port Arthur is met by the statement that it was provisioned for a garrison of twelve battalions, the decision to put 30 battalions there being taken so late that the original calculations could not be remedied.

While affirming that the quick-firing guns and field guns of the Russians are superior to those of the Japanese, the war office explains that the misfortune in the insufficiency of the mountain guns was due to the fact that when the war broke out Russia

FOUGHT A DUEL TO THE DEATH WHILE LOUNGERS CHEERED THEM

Steubenville, Ohio, March 24.—A knife duel to the death was fought by John Dobinsky and John Slato, two Polish miners, at Plum Run, a mining town in Smithfield township, today. The men, maddened by liquor, agreed to settle a grievance with knives. Stripping to the waist in a large room, they began the battle. Each thrust of the knives that caused blood to spurt was cheered by the loungers who looked on. The men grew weaker and weaker from loss of blood and fell. On the floor, the

CAUGHT IN FLOOD
\$175 Horse Drowned and Driver in the Water Three Hours.

Forest, Ont., March 25.—Mr. Jacob Rup, of this town had a narrow escape from drowning in the Au Sable River yesterday, while returning from Grand Bend. Although the road was swept away by the floods, Mr. Rup attempted to cross, when the current swept his horse and buggy from the road. The horse, which was valued at \$175, was drowned, and Mr. Rup himself was three hours in the water before he was rescued.

A BANK MERGER
Peoples' Bank of Halifax Absorbed by Bank of Montreal.

Halifax, N. S., March 24.—The Peoples' Bank of Halifax goes out of existence today, its assets being absorbed by the Bank of Montreal. The paid-up capital of the Peoples' Bank is \$1,000,000, the reserve fund amounting to \$400,000. The par value of the shares is \$20. The Peoples' Bank has 27 branches, nine of which are in Nova Scotia, eight in New Brunswick and ten in Quebec.

Fired on Constable.
Windsor, Ont., March 25.—The police here are on the lookout for Charles Binnett, a farrier, wanted by the Chatham authorities. Binnett, with several other men, engaged in a fight, Constable Brown placed Binnett under arrest. Binnett broke away, and after running a short distance, turned and fired several shots at Brown, afterwards escaping. He is believed to be making his way to the border.

Western Members Ask Sifton Re-enter Cabinet

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, March 25.—There will be a meeting of all the western members this afternoon to pass a resolution asking Sir Wilfrid Laurier to invite Mr. Sifton to return to the cabinet. A delegation will be appointed to present the resolution to the Premier.

FREIGHT HITS A STREET CAR

Three Persons Painfully Injured in Collision at a Berlin Street Crossing.

Berlin, Ont., March 25.—Three persons were injured in an accident which occurred on King street, where the Grand Trunk and street railway lines cross, about 6:40 this morning, when a freight train collided with one of the Berlin and Waterloo street railway cars. The injured were Mr. Ford, of Stratford, had scalp wound, which necessitated the putting in of five stitches; John Collins, jun., injuries about the face and hip; John Collins, sen., elbow badly wounded, probably a break, also some bruises on the face.

The car was in charge of Motorman L. Schluter and Conductor W. Schiller. The opinion is that the conductor could have averted the accident if he had used more caution.

It's Up to the King.
Rome, March 25.—Acting Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tittoni today announced to Parliament, that the whole cabinet had resigned, leaving the King free to name a new ministry, and that his majesty had reserved his decision. In the meanwhile Signor Tittoni and his colleagues will remain in office for the transaction of ordinary business.

Parliament then adjourned until the formation of the new cabinet.

RUSSIA'S GOLD RESERVE
Minister Says It Amounts to \$639,000,000.

St. Petersburg, March 25.—Finance Minister Kokovtsov made a personal statement today that the Russian gold reserve deposited in St. Petersburg amounts to \$639,000,000, besides \$200,000,000 in London and Paris. He added that the treasury had in addition to this 320,000,000 roubles in gold abroad, mostly in Paris and Berlin.

STOLEN RELICS
Russian Government Warns Museums Not to Buy Them.

London, March 24.—The Russian Government has published a description of priceless antiques, including a gold chalice and the ring of King David II, known as "The Restorer," which were stolen last July from the Monastery of Gelati, near Kutais, Transcaucasia. The circular warns Government museums not to buy the stolen relics.

King David II. flourished in the eleventh century and founded the church and monastery of Gelati, which contain some remarkable frescoes, paintings, and mosaics, also a collection of ancient parchments and books, and a perfect museum of jeweled icons, church vessels and priestly vestments. Among the most ancient is an image of the Saviour, known by the name of Johnne, and probably 800 years old.

SPANKING FOR INTOXICATION

The Toronto Grand Jury Recommends It After the First Offense.

Toronto, March 25.—In their present session this morning at the general sessions the grand jury said:

"We strongly approve of spanking for drunkenness after the first offense. We would suggest spanking without incarceration and without the option of a fine. Every other sentence should include spanking."

WIDENING THE BREACH

May Be an Open Rupture Between Balfour and Chamberlain.

London, March 25.—In the absence of anything else fiscal reform has again become the prominent question of the day. Mr. Chamberlain's Greenwich letter is almost the sole topic of the lobby of the House of Commons. His opponents regard it as an indication of the widening of the breach which they assert has long existed between Premier Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain, and are looking for an open rupture. In the meantime the Unionist free traders are advocating setting the tariff reform opposition with reprisal candidates. Thus the opposition by a tariff reformer to Lord Hugh Cecil at Greenwich is ground for opposing Sir Gilbert Parker at Gravesend with a free trader.

Next Tuesday Mr. Walton moves another resolution against fiscal retaliation. It is thought the Government will refrain from voting, as they did in regard to the Abensworth motion. Only the electorate could check up the fiscal question now.

Wm. Wild Dead.
Ottawa, Ont., March 25.—William Wild, barrister, of Wynd, Oaker & Ewart, died this morning, aged 51 years, after a lingering illness. He was born in Dundas, Ont., and was one of the best-known lawyers practicing here.

A Game Seizure.
Toronto, March 25.—Chief Game Warden Tinsley has seized an illegal shipment of 5,000 wild ducks sent from Manitoba to a Toronto commission merchant.

DYING MAN IN A MARSH
Party of Sportsmen Rescue the Unfortunate, But Too Late.

Windsor, March 24.—While hunting muskrats near the M. C. R. bridge in the River Rouge swamp about a half mile from River street in Delray, a party of sportsmen noticed a body submerged in water nearly to the shoulders. One man was clutching the weeds showing that the man was trying to pull himself out. Investigation showed that the man was still alive and breathing faintly.

The man was rescued and taken to Cocotte's Club House where he seemed to revive and while being carried up stairs, gasped: "Let me catch my breath." He then became unconscious. Several hospital doctors worked over him, but it was of no avail, the man dying in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, probably of exhaustion.

Royal Betrothal.
London, Saturday, March 25.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Mail says it is reliably stated that preliminary negotiations for the marriage of Princess Patricia, daughter of the Duke of Cornwall and Devon, and the King's only daughter, and the Duke of Edinburgh, were formally opened Thursday. Well-informed courtiers say the negotiations are almost certain to succeed.

NANSEN FEARS END TO UNION

Situation Over Norwegian Consuls a Grave One.

SWEDEN IS ACTING UNFAIRLY
The Great Arctic Explorer Says There Must Be Equal Rights for Both States.

London, March 25.—Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the Arctic explorer, who is making a short stay in London to discuss scientific matters with the Royal Geographical Society, being interviewed on the consular difficulty between Norway and Sweden, said that the situation was graver than generally understood abroad, and that there was a very serious danger to the union, if Sweden persisted in refusing Norway's undisputed rights. Then, explaining the history of the dispute in detail, Dr. Nansen said that the consular question involved a test as to whether Sweden was prepared honestly and honorably to recognize the right of union or if Norway was to become a mere Swedish dependency. Owing to the fact that Sweden is protectionist and Norway free trader, and because of Norway's more extensive sea trade and other divergences of commercial interests, Dr. Nansen said, it was absolutely essential for Norway to have her own consular service; but since Sweden's breach of faith in her failure to carry out the agreement on the subject arranged by the two governments in 1902, Norwegians were reluctantly driven to the conclusion that it is useless to enter into further negotiations.

"We wish the union maintained," Dr. Nansen continued, "but it must be on the unalterable foundation of equal rights of both states. No government that can possibly come into power in Norway will adopt any other policy."

In conclusion, Dr. Nansen emphatically denounced the rumors that Norway would offer territorial or other concessions with a view to obtaining Russian aid in the unhappy dispute, and declared that was the last thing in the mind of the Norwegians would dream of doing.

A NEW CURRENT

Sir Oliver Lodge Has New Discovery in Electricity.

London, March 24.—Sir Oliver Lodge, the well known electrical authority, lecturer on electricity, who is described as a perfectionist in electricity, stripped of technicalities, he said it could be described as a personal current with which would overcome great obstacles and go in any direction regardless of what stood in the way. He had been looking for such a current since 1884, and had only recently encountered it. He had applied it successfully in his prolonged experiments with the wireless telegraph, and in connection with the discovery.

THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow—Partly Fair and Mild.
Sun rises, 6:13 a.m. Moon rises, 12:00 a.m. Sun sets, 5:34 p.m. Moon sets, 3:50 a.m.

Toronto, March 24—8 p.m.—Local showers have occurred in the Lake region and in the Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence valleys. Elsewhere the weather has been fine, and nearly everywhere very mild.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 42-57; Edmonton, 32-56; Calgary, 30-52; Qu'Appelle, 28-53; Winnipeg, 34-44; Port Arthur, 30-42; Parry Sound, 28-50; Toronto, 30-45; Ottawa, 28-40; Montreal, 34-42; Quebec, 30-50; St. John, 30-40; Halifax, 20-46.

FORECASTS.
Saturday, March 25—8 a.m. Today—Fair and very mild. Sunday—Some local showers, but partly fair; continued very mild.

TEMPERATURES.
Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather. St. John's, 38-48; Fair. Winnipeg, 30-40; Fair. Parry Sound, 28-38; Clear. Toronto, 30-45; Clear. Ottawa, 28-40; Cloudy. Montreal, 34-42; Cloudy. Quebec, 30-50; Rain. Father Point, 38-48; Rain.

MISCAMPBELL VERY ILL
The Ontario Conservative Organizer Not Expected to Recover.

Toronto, March 24.—Mr. Andrew Miscampbell, ex-M. P. and Conservative organizer for Ontario, is lying at his home, 1000 Avenue, in a very critical condition, and his physicians doubt very much whether he will live. Mr. Miscampbell has suffered for years from stomach trouble. Four weeks ago it took on an aggravated form and he has been confined to his bed ever since. Mr. Miscampbell represented Ontario in the Legislature for three terms.

LATER.
Toronto, March 25.—Andrew Miscampbell, ex-M. P. and Conservative organizer, died at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon.

A TRIPLE TRAGEDY.

Drain, Ore., March 25.—Herman Shooks has shot and killed E. V. Cooper and Paul Hovse. Shooks then shot himself, dying almost instantly. Cooper suspected Shooks of having sought his life and had been accused him of the attempt. Shooks became enraged and seized a shotgun killed both men and himself.

Standing Committees To Be Struck Off Tuesday—A Twenty Minute Session on Friday.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Toronto, March 24.—The Legislature contented itself with a 20-minute session today, the only matter discussed being the striking of the standing committees of the House. Mr. Harcourt urged an immediate appointment, but Mr. Whitney answered that there was no hurry, as there would be no work for the committees for a week or ten days.

The House adjourned at 3:20 and there was the usual week-end rush for home-going trains.

Mr. Whitney stated that he would be preparing on Monday to name the standing committee to strike the standing committees of the House. Mr. Harcourt said that with a view to speedily terminating the session, it was imperative that the committees should be appointed immediately. The House had held sessions as short as seven weeks, although the majority of the sessions had lasted about nine weeks. The committees on private bills and standing orders should be named at once. Of the 50 or more private bills which would probably be introduced, perhaps eight or ten only would be of a contentious nature. If named at once, the private bills committee could get to work next week. Mr. Harcourt said he wished to assure the Premier that the members of the Opposition were quite prepared to expedite in every way the transactions of the House. They did not, said Mr. Harcourt, humbly intend to embarrass the Government materially, and would not take advantage of their numerical strength or debating power, leaving himself out of the question, he was assured that of the 28 other members of the Opposition, 27 were excellent debaters, while the 28th, the member for Brockville (Mr. Graham) had stated his intention at once taking lessons in the House.

Mr. Whitney, replying, said that in the eighteen years he had been a member of the House, he had never before known Mr. Harcourt to evidence the slightest intention of advancing the business of the House at such an early stage in the session. The honorable leader of the Opposition knew perfectly well that there was nothing for the committees to do for at least ten days or two weeks after the opening of the session. If the committees were named today, it would not facilitate the business of the House in the least. There was not a private bill ready.

In dealing with the private legislation during the session, said Mr. Whitney, the Government would probably have to do some unpleasant things, owing to the neglect of some promoters of bills, to undertake in time the formalities necessary to be observed in introducing such legislation.

In many respects private bills legislation had not received the careful attention which in the interests of the Province it should have received. He did not mean to blame either side of the House; he was speaking of the Legislature as a collective body. Mr. Whitney asked that in view of his inexperience as leader of the Government the Opposition would "be to his faults a little blind."

Mr. Harcourt capped the quotation by assuring the Premier that the Opposition would "be to his virtues very kind." He said he would immediately send over the names of the Opposition members for the striking committees.

Mr. Whitney then moved the adjournment and the House rose till 3 p.m. Monday.

Notices of Motions.
The following notices were given by the Opposition:

Mr. Harcourt—Is it the intention of the Government to introduce at this session legislation amending the act respecting the sale of fermented or spirituous liquors?

Mr. Sifton States His Case As to Autonomy Measure

Declares He Was Consulted by Colleagues in Making of Bill.

Prepared to Vote With Government on Compromise Clause.

Approves of Plan to Keep Regulation of Immigration in the Hands of the Federal Government.

Ottawa, March 24.—The Hon. Clifford Sifton, ex-Minister of the Interior, made his statement to the House in regard to his views on the school clause, and the cause of his resignation from the cabinet. Mr. Sifton denied that he had not been consulted in the making up of the bill. He stated that the Government was quite familiar with his views as to the autonomy bill, views that he had laid before his colleagues a year ago. Mr. Sifton said he was prepared to vote for the compromise clause, though he could not do so with a great amount of enthusiasm.

Mr. Sifton said that on the present occasion, while his friends had been good enough to greet him with applause, he did not feel the same confidence as usual in meeting the general approval of those on the Liberal side. He observed that it seemed to be an irony of political fortune that it was upon the measure admitting to provincial status the country upon which he had lavished an affectionate solicitude that he should have been obliged to sever his relations with the cabinet—his official relations with the party with which he had been associated for fourteen years.

Mr. Sifton wished it to be clearly understood that the report was unjustified which said that the bill had been introduced with its educational clause without his sanction, but coming to the subject of the bill, he said that he had been consulted, and he said the fact was that his views on the subject of autonomy were well known to his colleagues, he having left a memorandum with them a year ago embodying those views, and in the main, the bill now before the House, with the exception of the educational clause, was the measure which he had recommended. Mr. Sifton defended the division of the territories into two provinces, as being in the best interests of the Dominion, and that he was in dealing with them, only that he favored the extension of these provinces to the northern confines of Canada, for he believed that as soon as possible the Federal Government should divest itself of the administration of these territories, and turn it over to the Provincial Government. The Province of Canada was a most important matter, and he was sure Parliament would do nothing which would imperil the success of the immigration policy of the Government. But to hand over the lands to the Province would be to invite friction that it was even now difficult to avoid with the Dominion and the lands branches under the single control of the department of the interior. It would be impossible to carry on a unified immigration policy with the lands in the hands of three different provinces each with its own minister of crown lands and its own land policy. The provinces would have to administer those lands for purposes of revenue rather than settlement, no could they be handed over to the provinces with a limitation on the preservation of a homestead policy.

CASTRO IS BACK AND VERY ANGRY

Shows a Strong Hostility Towards American and French Interests.

Paris, March 25, 1:05 p.m.—An official dispatch from Caracas, Venezuela, says President Castro, who was absent from the capital during the recent supposed amelioration of the situation, has returned to Caracas and has manifested strong hostility against American and French interests. His attitude, it is added, is particularly menacing against the French Cable Company. It is premature to say what steps France will take, as the information has just been received, and the officials have not yet had an opportunity to consider it. However, it is likely that their action will depend upon President Castro putting his menaces into effect by covert acts against the company or the forfeiture of its concession. No orders for warships to be held in readiness have yet been issued or are contemplated for the present, but there seems to be a growing impression in official quarters that the presence of a warship in Venezuelan waters might exercise a salutary influence.

JAP PRIESTS AND TEACHERS WORMING A WAY INTO CHINA

Berlin, March 25.—A letter from Peking, published by the National Zeitung today, gives the results of an inquiry into Japanese political activity in China. The writer says Japanese agents in various lines of business are penetrating into China and settling in every important place in the empire, devoting themselves to their calling in life, whether priest, editor, teacher or trader, and to winning popularity by the good will of the Chinese for Japan. The method most often used is the founding of newspapers printed in the Chinese language and friendly to Japanese aims. These try to influence the provincial governors and Peking Government to employ Japanese teachers in the schools, and especially to place Japanese military instructors

in charge of the Chinese troops. In addition Japanese Buddhist monks have begun to stir in China on a political and semi-religious errand. They seek closer relations with the Chinese, and have organized associations over which the Japanese flag is floated. The monks also establish themselves in the Chinese language and congregations. Their declared aim is to unite the various Buddhist sects in China. The Buddhist monasteries in Canton have already placed themselves under the protection of the Japanese flag and have become branches of the great Pen Tsu Thue Monastery of Tokyo. At Swatow (province of Kwang Tung) Japanese monks have rented a temple over which the Japanese flag has been hoisted, and they already have 800 followers.

Mr. Sifton then approached the educational clauses of the bill, and while on this subject he held aloof from the interest of the House. He repeated that these clauses led him to resign from the Government, and denied that personal pique had anything to do with his action. He said, he said, that the Prime Minister was not well advised in bringing in the measure without consulting his views, and that the legislation itself that caused his retirement from the Government. On the whole, he said, he agreed largely with the statements and arguments of the leader of the Opposition than with the views of the Prime Minister. His conclusions, however, were not in accord with those of the leader of the Opposition. He thought Mr. Borden was wrong in his view that considering legislation which was to bring about certain things, in the Northwest, Parliament should shut its eyes to the examination of the actual educational effect of the proposal before the House.

"It seems to me," said Mr. Sifton, "that almost everybody will agree with my honorable friend, the Minister of Finance, that while the man on the street sees both the leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition standing on the rock of the constitution, but coming to different and opposite conclusions, the man on the street will be likely to say, 'I cannot hope to understand the law or the constitution, but I do not want to know what kind of schools they are going to have in the Northwest Territories.'"

Mr. Sifton then discussed the terms of the Northwest Territories act of 1875, which established separate schools in the west. Following the passage of that act, he said, there sprang upon the territories a complete dual system of schools. The Roman Catholics had their own board of education; they prescribed text books, course of studies, and conducted what were practically schools wholly and absolutely. The schools were similar to the separate school system which was abolished in Manitoba in 1890. The Legislature of the territories decided that the separate schools, as conducted, could not be longer allowed, and in 1892 the dual system was wiped out, and the present system established. Mr. Sifton told how the Roman Catholics petitioned the Dominion Government, and the Northwest Ordinances which converted their church schools into what are practically public schools. Sir John Thompson agreed that the Roman Catholics were in contravention of the act of 1875, but he refused to disallow them. Church schools came to be a thing of the past in the territories, and the board of education was discontinued, all the schools came under the council of public instruction, and Government control was established, ending the recognition of a homestead policy.

HAVE RUSS AND JAP SHIPS MET?

Dispatch Says Three of Rojestvensky's Battleships Have Been Torpedoed.

Paris, March 25.—The Matin's St. Petersburg's dispatch sends an unconfirmed report that three torpedo boats have succeeded in damaging Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's battleships Sissoi, Varyag, and Navarin.

Three Years for Brown.
Windsor, Ont., March 25.—John Brown was found guilty of assisting Charles Jackson to escape from the county jail at Sandwich, and sentenced by Magistrate Bartlett to three years in Kingston penitentiary. Brown was serving a six weeks' sentence for theft. Turnkey Herl has recovered from the effect of the assault made upon him by Jackson and Brown.

Catholics in Russia.

Rome, March 25.—The Vatican has been informed that the Russian Government has communicated to the Roman Catholic bishops in that country that it will require three months in which to consider their memorial concerning liberty of religion. In view of this Bishop Pallou will delay his arrival at Rome for a few days.