The Weekly Colonist.

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BRAVE CHINESE SOLDIERS.

Imperial Decree Commending the Forces Who Fought at Ping Yang and Assan.

Russian Annexation of Korea and Manchuria Recommended in the Press.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—The Department of State to-day received by mail a number of official dispatches from Charge d'Affaires Denby, at Pekin, but they were all written in August, and contained little news of interest. One dated August 28, stated that the steamers between Tientsin and Shanghai had almost to be suspended, and that the mail service was very bad. This is fully corroborated by the fact that Mr. Denby's letter took forty-four days in transit. The Charge anticipated that a continuance of these delays would render it necessary for him to send his letters overland by way of Russia. In the dispatch dated August 29, is enclosed the translation of an imperial decree, commending the Chinese soldiers for their bravery in the retreat of Ping Yang after the battle of Asan, which appears to have resulted from a memorial addressed to the throne by the famous general asking that he be degraded for his masterly retreat. The full text of it is:

"A decree published in the Manuscript Gazette of August 26, 1894, issued by the Emperor of China:

"Some time since our forces under command of General Yeh Chih Choo gained a victory in battle against the Japanese, and as a stimulus to valor Her Majesty the Empress Dowager graciously bestowed upon them a gratuity of 20,000 taels. We have now received a telegraphic memorial stating that the forces of our army, while moving to Kung Chon, were suddenly surrounded by over 20,000 Japanese troops who made a surprise attack upon them. Our forces joined battle with the enemy and had to bear the brunt of a bloody fight which lasted for 12 hours, resulting in a loss on the Japanese side of over 1,700 men against 300 and more killed and wounded on our side. The said general and others, with a small force as compared with the greater one of the Japanese, were in an extremely embarrassing condition, and they set an ambush and were enabled to retreat from the enemy. Our forces were then marched east, crossing the Hun river and temporarily encamped at Ping Yang.

"The memorialist requests that he should be punished to the full extent of the penalty allowed by law, and that marks of imperial favor and reward shall be bestowed on the officers and men who exerted themselves and those who were killed in battle. Our military forces, under the command of General Yeh Chih Chee, were originally dispatched to Korea to suppress the rebellion there. They did not number many men. In the present instance, however, our troops while en route met the Japanese forces, numbering many times more than ours, who surrounded them on all sides and attacked them. Our troops were able to hold their own; they fought against a greater force and were able to make their escape. Although some were killed and wounded the meritorious conduct displayed fully equalled the errors committed. As an act of grace Yeh Chih Choo need not be punished as requested; the officers and men of our forces braving the heat had a distressing fight, they displayed warlike courage worthy of encouragement. Let the names of those who particularly distinguished themselves be reported to us, as well as those who were killed in battle, with the request that rewards may be bestowed as a mark of our favor. The said general is now at Ping Yang, and has joined the other great army. Let all the commanders of forces act together and with warlike courage meet the enemy in battle, and without loss of time memorialize us, thereby achieving great merit and thus gratify our longings.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 11.—The Novisti says to-day on the war: "In the event of being victorious Japan will establish herself firmly in Korea and thus become a constant menace to Russia. At the same time China will threaten Russia from Manchuria. The result possibly will be that we shall be unable to maintain our Siberian frontier. The only means of averting this is to send troops at once to Korea and Manchuria and annex both."

VIENNA, Oct. 11.—The Politischer correspondent says that on the 6th Great Britain addressed a circular note to the British diplomatists accredited to the great powers, directing them to open negotiations with a view to effecting an understanding as to the measures to protect Europeans in China, also to determine the limit to which the powers would permit the Japanese to advance in China.

LONDON, Oct. 11.—The Times has this dispatch from its Tientsin correspondent: "The recent withdrawal of English and other families from Pekin appears to have been the result of a Japanese ruse. Information was imparted confidentially from Tokio of an intended descent upon the coast of the province of Pechili and attacks upon Pekin. This induced the foreign ministers to take measures for the security of the women. The Japanese expected to excite Pekin and its population, but among the Chinese the effect has been rather to arouse the court to a resolute defence of the Emperor. The popular feeling in Peking and Tientsin is unusually friendly to foreigners, whom the natives regard as a sort of pledge of safety. The chronic street rowdies can easily be controlled, provided the foreign ministers and consuls insist on the Chinese officials doing their duty. The former heretofore have been culpably lax in this respect."

The Times correspondent in Paris says that negotiations are proceeding between Germany, France, the United States, Russia and England with a view to diplomatic action for the restoration of peace in the East. None of these powers, the correspondent says, advocates interfering with the course of events by other than diplomatic means.

The budget committee has refused to grant General Mercier's appeal for an increase of credits with which to add 35,000 men to the army. The war minister urged upon the committee that the existing peace footing effective was inadequate for advantageous drilling and mobilizing.

GREAT GALES.

ST JOHNS, Nfld., Oct. 11.—Communication with St. Pierre Miq. is interrupted, and details of the havoc wrought by the gale on Tuesday night are obtained only with great difficulty. The gale raged all Tuesday night with heavy rain. When the storm began there was a large fleet of fishing vessels that had been driven in from the grand banks by the gale of ten days ago. There were more than 300 vessels at anchor. When the gale was at its height many of these vessels broke from their moorings, drove ashore and became a total loss. Several came into collision with other vessels, smashing them up. Great confusion reigned, the crews of many vessels abandoning their craft. Between forty and fifty vessels went ashore. Eight of these are total losses, all having from 500 to 700 quintals of fish aboard. The pilot boat Le Pourtante was also wrecked. No lives were lost in port. The crew of the Avelan, numbering twenty men, who were supposed to have been lost, were found safe to-day when the storm abated. They had escaped to vessels which had ridden out the storm safely. The gravest apprehension exists in St. Pierre concerning many fishing vessels that were on the banks in the recent gale.

All returning ships were more or less damaged. The French banking fleet numbers nearly 400 vessels. From accounts brought in it is believed many were unable to withstand the gale and were lost with all hands. The exact number lost cannot be estimated for a few days but it is believed ten ships at least have gone down. The damage done by the gale is so general that fishermen will be compelled to abandon bank fishing for this season, thus suffering a further serious loss. Many reports of disaster by the recent gale are reaching St. John's. The Gloucester fishing schooner Martha C. was lost at the Bay islands, but the crew were saved. The steamer Virginia Lake had her decks swept, her engine room smashed and other damage. The Gloucester schooner Annie Wastrie lost her anchor and dories. One of her crew was swept overboard, but was afterwards rescued. The vessel leaked so badly that the crew were at the pumps for two nights and days.

WESTMINSTER'S FAIR.

The Weather Was Perfect—A Splendid Show—Fair Women and Brave Men.

Victoria Prize Takers—Splendid Arrangements—Grand Promenade Concert.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Oct. 11.—(Special)—The weather was perfect to-day and an exhibition took place which was not on the regular programme—a beauty show. It is safe to say that when British Columbia is better known to the world, among other things the province will be noted for its fair women. The crowds were even in excess of yesterday and the sports were keen and exciting.

In the inside the red tickets (first prize) were found to be well distributed, and among the many prize winners were noticed prominently the names of Miss A. Miller in ladies' fancy work, ring work, crewel work, table doylies, work baskets; also that of Mrs. W. Bickford, Victoria, who obtained numerous prizes in fancy work.

Messrs. M. R. Smith & Son won diplomas for biscuits and confectionery, and Mr. Pendray, B.C. soapworks, won diplomas for his several magnificent exhibits. Falconer's vinegar works also came in for numerous diplomas. The COLONIST Printing and Publishing Co. were honored with a diploma for the best specimens of lithographing and printing in the Province. In fact, Victoria exhibits were universally admired and very materially aided in making the fair the brilliant success it was.

More than a dozen prizes were carried away by the owners of Victoria dogs. Among the first prize winners was Galen, a brown cocker spaniel from Dr. Milne's kennels, owned by Dr. McGuigan of Vancouver.

In the evening a most successful promenade concert took place. Too much praise cannot be given to the tramway company and Traffic Agent Gibson for the able manner in which they handled the eager thousands of passengers and brought them safely home without mishap.

SATOLLI ENDORSED.

CHICAGO, Oct. 11.—The birthday of Father Mathew, the apostle of temperance, was celebrated yesterday with a parade, in which 15,000 people participated. Catholic orders, Protestant societies, children from the public, parochial and private schools, Good Templars and similar organizations were in the procession, which was reviewed by Governor Altgeld, Mayor Hopkins and other notables. The parade was preliminary to a mass meeting in the Auditorium, with Bishop Watterson, of Columbus, O., as chief orator. The committee received the following reply from Mgr. Satolli to a letter complimenting his stand for temperance, and inviting him to be present:

"I am pleased to hear that my recent decision has produced so happy an effect. It is a matter of deep regret that so many Catholics are engaged in the saloon traffic, which by its abuses is the cause of so much harm to our fellow men and scandal to all Catholic doctrine. Fondly trusting that this abuse may be mitigated, if not obliterated, and thus a cause of reproach be removed from the Catholics in America, I remain yours sincerely in Christ.

"SATOLLI."

A magnificent gathering assembled tonight at the Auditorium, the audience, as well as the speakers, including prominent representatives of all the leading denominations. Bishop Watterson was given a rousing reception. His address dealt extensively with the controversy regarding the recent decision of Mgr. Satolli against saloonkeepers, which he endorsed in every particular.

J. Neales, the Canadian customs official from St. Mary's, Alberta, came up on remand at Bow street to-day. He pleaded guilty to all the charges of embezzlement, etc, and will return in custody on the steamship Numidian.

THE OTHER SIDE.

Chinese Version of the Causes and the Beginnings of the Present War.

Interesting Letter From an Important Member of the Government at Pekin.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—The first authoritative statement of the Chinese side in the present war with Japan was given out today through the medium of a personal letter received by a gentleman in Washington of international reputation. Chang Yen Hoon, a member of the Tung Li Yamen or Foreign Office, and formerly minister to the United States, is the writer of the letter and, while it is not of a formal character, he asks that it be given to the American press. The letter follows:

PEKIN, China, August 21, '94.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Since I last had the pleasure of writing you the events of war have fallen to my country most suddenly. It may be of interest to you to know the exact cause of the unfortunate trouble between this government and the government of Japan, which may be more correctly represented by me than it is likely to be reported in the papers of America. In the month of June last riots of a rebellious character broke out in the southern part of Korea, and as that country is tributary to this government it sought from us military assistance. Accordingly 1,500 troops were despatched by Viceroy Li to the vicinity of the rebellion, a place named Ya Shang, about 70 miles from the Korean capital, with no other aim but to suppress the rebels and restore peace to these unfortunate people.

The Japanese on hearing of the action of the Imperial government sent immediately a large force and took possession of the Korean capital and fortified themselves in all the important positions. When the Chinese troops arrived at Ya Shang the rebels dispersed and peace was restored. In accordance with a treaty between the two governments that the forces of both countries should immediately be withdrawn after a riot or a rebellion had been suppressed, the Imperial government was about to withdraw its troops, but Japan insisted on permanently stationing her military forces in that country. Soon afterwards Japan demanded that certain reforms should be forced on Korea, modifying its laws and asking the Imperial government to renounce all claims over Korea. My government could not consent, for it is not the custom nor do the laws permit that we should control the international affairs of a tributary country.

I need not remind you that history has for years told us that Korea is tributary to this country, and at the time when Korea sent her first representative to Washington, on my call at your State department, the Secretary of State did not hesitate to acknowledge that Korea was tributary to the Imperial government, and that it was with its consent that she carried on treaty negotiations with foreign powers. As matters were developing into a very dangerous state, Her Britannic Majesty's minister to this country was good enough to offer her services in the hope that the two nations might settle the question peaceably by arbitration. The Imperial government was most willing to act according to the treaty stipulations between the two countries, and on an intimation of Her Britannic Majesty's minister that the withdrawal of troops of both nations would assist in a speedy arrangement we expressed a perfect readiness to recall our troops. The Japanese minister at Seoul informed our representative there that he would advise his government to withdraw its troops and put a stop to further forces being dispatched to Korea. But Japan would not listen to reason, and disregarded all the solemn promises contained in the treaty stipulations. Her Britannic Majesty's minister's well meant intervention was of no avail.

On being asked by this government your noble President also represented to the Japanese government in the strongest terms how sorry he would feel to hear that friendly relations had ceased between the two countries, and that he would consider it an unjust and unnecessary war. Finally the Japanese legation sent to this foreign office a most unreasonable note insisting that should hostilities be carried out it would not be Japan that commenced them. If it had been the intention of this government to gain any advantage from the Korean trouble we would have sent more than 15,000 troops to this country, and they would have occupied themselves in other ways than in the suppression of the rebels. I am sure the world is thoroughly convinced that China, not only in this case, but in all previous troubles, has never taken the offensive. As Japan continued to increase her forces in Korea and affairs became more threatening the Imperial government sent reinforcements thither to protect Chinese subjects and the interests she had enjoyed, and which had been recognized by the civilized world for many years. It was not until our transport ships had been fired upon without a previous declaration of war and one of them sunk that this government gave up all hopes of arbitration and entered upon war. In the fear that the exact causes of this unhappy trouble may not have been properly presented in the American newspapers, I write you in the hope that you will be convinced that my government has done its utmost to maintain friendly relations and that it was not China that had commenced hostilities.

If it is not against the usual practice I would like to have this letter published in your leading papers that its publication may gain for my country the sympathy of the great American public.

I remain, yours ever truly,

(Signed) CHANG YEN HOON.

LABOR CONDITIONS.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—Lorrin A. Thurston, the Hawaiian minister who has been in Honolulu for the past three months, has returned to Washington and will sail for Europe on the 17th inst. under a special commission from his government to investigate the labor conditions of Europe as affecting Hawaiian immigration. He expects to return to Washington in December.

Princess Mary, wife of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, gave birth to a daughter this morning.

JAPANESE VICTORY.

Defeat of the Chinese Forces—Their Opponent's Communications in Korea Complete.

Li Hung Chang Censured — Korean Officials Thank the Emperor of Japan.

LONDON, Oct. 11.—The Central News correspondent in Wi Ju gives further details of a battle reported earlier in the day from Tokio. He says that the Japanese force had been greatly delayed in its advance by the badness of the roads. The heavy guns could be brought forward but slowly and the troops were often compelled to wait for supplies. The pioneer troops had to be used repeatedly to make the roads passable. The main Japanese column reached Yung Chun, a short distance south of Wi Ju, on October 4. There was no sign of the enemy. Four days later scouts, who had been sent out toward Wi Ju, reported that a small Chinese force still occupied the city. The strength of the enemy, estimated at 20,000, a strong body of infantry and cavalry, supported by light artillery, was thrown forward at once. The Chinese offered little resistance. They retired before the first attacking party and eventually struck and fled across the Yalu. The Chinese loss was hardly more than a hundred killed and wounded. The Japanese line of communication is now complete throughout Korea. The Japanese expect further reinforcements to come to Wi Ju by water. A Japanese officer has been appointed governor-commissary of Wi Ju. The field telegraph had been in working order since last evening, and regular courier service between Wi Ju and the rear of the column began to-day.

The Central News correspondent in Tokio says that the Emperor of Japan will receive personally eight Korean officials, who will start for Horoshima on Saturday to thank him for his support of the Korean rebels. The envoys will present to His Majesty a memorial requesting that Japan undertake to protect Korea permanently from foreign encroachments. The correspondent adds: "The Japanese government means to establish Korea on a strong foundation in order that she may aid Japan in repelling the encroachments of Russia and the other powers. Rumors that European interference to limit the war is possible caused astonishment here. The government cannot stop the war until its demands shall have been satisfied. There must be guarantees that China will not interfere further with Korea and an ample war indemnity must be paid."

The Tientsin correspondent of the Central News says: Li Hung Chang has closed contracts with Krupps' agent to supply the government with guns and ammunition, on condition that the arms shall be delivered before the closing of navigation for the winter. Large supplies are coming to the city from Canton and other arsenals.

LONDON, Oct. 11.—A Tientsin dispatch says Chinese troops arriving there are composed of riffraff and badly armed. The Chinese government has contracted with German manufacturers for quick firing guns, and the arms are expected to arrive daily. The Japanese are watching the coast for the arrival of arms. It is rumored at Tientsin that ironclad warships have been purchased from Austria and the United States. Capt. Von Hanneken is to rejoin the Chinese service under Admiral Ting. The navy is very short of ammunition for the large guns, and the arsenals are working day and night furnishing supply. Four Japanese spies have been captured at Port Arthur. The spy arrested at Tientsin has confessed to having sent four dispatches to the Japanese informing them of the Chinese position. A fire at Tientsin on October 4 destroyed the Chinese Merchants' Company warehouse and other buildings were damaged.

It is reported that the Emperor recently visited Tientsin in disguise to view the situation. Li Hung Chang is blamed for the Chinese defeats. The children sing songs ridiculing him and placards of the same character are posted in the streets. The Chinese declare that Russia is aiding Japan. The Japanese are in command of the Shan Tung coast and Gulf of Pichili. The Japanese fleet pay weekly visits to Wei-Hai-Wei. Early on the morning of October 6 eight Japanese ships hovered about the entrance to the harbor. A few shots were fired at them from the fort. The forts at Wei Hai-Wei are fully armed with heavy guns and the harbor is considered impregnable.

A Tokio dispatch says the Japanese yesterday attacked and routed a force of twenty thousand Chinese at Wi Ju and captured the place. Ten thousand Chinese troops are reported on the banks of the Yalu river throwing up batteries. Field Marshal Count Yamagata has established his base of operations at Ping Yang. It is hoped the Japanese will be in possession of Monkden by the early part of November. China has been formally notified of the surrender of the steamer Tenkyonaru, together with the European and Chinese crew. A state of siege has been declared in Hiroshima.

Suanhaikwan, where the Japanese are reported to have landed 40,000 troops, is directly on the railroad leading from Tientsin to Moukden, and is of great strategic importance. In fact the opinion has been expressed that if Suanhaikwan is captured, there is nothing to prevent the Japanese from marching on to Peking.

A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Yokohama says that the Japanese government has decided to raise an international war loan of ten million pounds, which, together with the new taxation for war purposes, will bring the resources of the government up to twenty-six million pounds. The minority in the cabinet favored a foreign loan, owing to the recency of the last international loan.

The Times in its financial article this morning says that a definite denial of any proposal to raise a Japanese loan has been received in this city. The common belief is that China will be compelled to raise a loan to pay the indemnity that Japan will demand.

A dispatch to the Times from Yokohama repeats the report of the capture of Chefoo, and adds that the Japanese have landed troops at Tarascada, near Port Arthur. The correspondent at Hongkong telegraphs under date of to-day that the Chinese have closed Foochoo in preparation for a siege. A panic prevails at Pekin.

SHANGHAI, Oct. 11.—The two Japanese spies arrested in Tientsin have been sent to Nankin to be beheaded. Affairs in Pekin are extremely critical. The Emperor adheres to his determination to manage affairs himself. The assertion that the Japanese admiral has been making demonstrations with a dummy warship is unfounded.

BERLIN, Oct. 11.—The Cologne Gazette asserts that the European powers have agreed upon a Corean policy and have also decided not to hinder the Japanese from advancing upon Pekin.

OFFICIAL JEALOUSY.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—The line officers of the navy, it is said, are bringing great pressure to bear on Secretary Herbert to induce him to abandon his intention of sending constructor Hobson to the scene of the Asiatic war. They resent what they term an invasion of their prerogatives, no staff officer having ever before been detailed for what is considered a distinctly military service. When the plan of sending Mr. Hobson to China was made public, representations were made to the secretary that the mission was one which could only succeed if secrecy was maintained and that Mr. Hobson, having been publicly named, it was necessary to select some other officer; but against their contention it was urged that it would be absolutely impossible for any naval officer departing for China or Japan to visit the Japanese or Chinese dock yards without his mission being known.

What Secretary Herbert's ultimate decision in the matter will be is not yet made known, but it is doubtful whether Mr. Hobson will be able to reach San Francisco in time to sail by the Gaelic on the 11th instant, as originally intended. Secretary Herbert is still convinced that the information sought to be obtained through Mr. Hobson's detail would be of great value to the navy, and unless he is convinced by the representation being made to him that line officers now in Commodore Carpenter's fleet are competent to secure the technical information desired, he may adhere to his original determination, and Mr. Hobson's formal orders may perhaps be issued in time for him to sail from San Francisco by the next steamer, October 25.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Excellent Wine Producing Qualities of Canadian Grapes—The C.P.R. Track Being Relaid.

Montreal Merchants Want the French Treaty Enforced — Mounted Police for the Yukon.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 11.—Mr. Macfarlane, Dominion analyist, has returned from a visit to the wine growing districts of Ontario, where he tested the varieties of grapes to ascertain the gravity of the juice. The test gave from 13 to 25 per cent. of saccharine matter, indicating that certain varieties of Canadian grapes will yield as rich musts as do the French and Rhine grapes. Mr. Macfarlane's conclusion is that Canada can produce just as good wine as any other country in the world. Our people, however, would require to have faith in the product to be prepared to pay a price to enable the wine to be sold in bottles.

The work of re-laying the Canadian Pacific railway from Montreal to Fort William with 72 pound rails was completed yesterday near this city.

The Montreal deputation saw Sir John Thompson and Hon. Mr. Bowell to urge that arrangements be made for the speedy putting into force of the French treaty as soon as ratified by the French chambers.

Inspector Constantine, of the Mounted Police, who was sent to the Yukon country with a view to reporting upon the alleged smuggling operations said to be going on in that region, has returned. He reports that considerable lawlessness prevails in that country, an organized whiskey ring having complete control of all the mining camps. Sergeant Brown of the police was left to winter in the country.

MONTREAL MATTERS.

MONTREAL, Oct. 11.—(Special)—A Star cable says the Mansion House relief committee is advised by the Dominion government that there is no room in Canada for other than land workers. It is hoped this will stop this charitable emigration.

The C. P. R. traffic for week ending October 7 was $471,000. In the same week last year it was $467,000.

About 8 o'clock this morning a laborer namek DeGuire, aged 25 years, picked up the business end of a live wire on Notre Dame street in St. Henri suburbs, and the current passed through his body, killing him.

The Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company declared a 3 per cent. dividend yesterday. This is the first dividend in many years.

The visit of Mgr. Satolli, apostolic delegate, which he will shortly make to Quebec and Montreal, has occasioned much speculation as to his mission. The church authorities deny that it has any official character.

Mr. Mercier had another bad attack last night, and was very weak this morning.

La Minerve publishes an apparently authoritative article regarding the successor of Archbishop Tache. It declares secular clergy at St. Boniface petitioned against the appointment of an Oblate, it being supposed that Father Langevin would secure the office. Their choice was Father Cherrier. The matter has been referred by the authorities at Rome to the Canadian bishops.

SAILORS' WAGES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 11.—The local association of sailor boarding house keepers have circulated a notice along the water front, announcing that hereafter seamen's wages on deep water ships shall be $20 per month, and ordinary seamen's $15. This is an advance of $5 in each case over the rate heretofore paid to seamen shipping for a voyage to Liverpool or other distant ports. In consequence the ship captains do not take to it favorably. On the other hand the boarding house masters assert that they will not ship a single man unless the rate of $20 and $15 is agreed to.

SOLD HIS LIFE FOR A TRIFLE.

The Unfortunate Aeronaut Drowned at Westminster an Employe of "Professor" Soper.

Many People Watched the Last Act in the Drama — A Mother Mourns the Dead.

VANCOUVER, Oct. 11.—(Special)—A brief dispatch to the COLONIST on Wednesday announced the death by accident of the aeronaut who ascended from the Westminster fair grounds in a balloon. The victim, however, turns out not to have been Prof. Sopher, but an employe named Charles Marble, who was his substitute for the day.

The hero of an afternoon strutted about in pink tights among the moving mass of humanity, while people idly followed his movements and passed remarks: "There's the fool that's going to risk his neck in a balloon"—"Such things shouldn't be allowed"—"He gets $300 for three ascensions"—"He'll drop in the river, sure."

Meanwhile Marble walked back and forth, busying himself with preparing for the ascent. The immense canvas monster of the air was put in position, a few holes sewn up, and a wood and coal oil fire built underneath, so that smoke, gas and all entered the balloon, and slowly, very slowly, the great bulk swelled, Marble inspecting minutely every detail. Gradually the mass became more buoyant and the familiar shape of the balloon became apparent.

About 4 o'clock the monster was full, swollen, bulging and anxious to be off. A great crowd had collected, fully 8,000 people, when the guys were loosened and the balloon ascended swift as a rocket. First the large bulk, then yards of rope, then the folded parachute, then more yards of rope, then a trapeze, and dangling in the air at the end of all was the figure of Marble.

Before ten could be counted the figure had assumed the proportions of a large doll, performing like a marionette at a giddy height above the surging crown, who silent as death kept their fascinated yet unwilling eyes on the daring aeronaut.

The balloon seemed to remain stationary over the river, and the aeronaut could be seen busying himself with the ropes. A thousand people in the crowd, with anxious upturned faces, said "Now he'll drop with the parachute," but Marble still remained on the trapeze and the canvas giant of the air slowly descended until hidden by the trees from the onlookers.

A brief space and the balloon again ascended with smoke pouring from the emptying valve, and again disappeared. Then the crowd talked at once. "He fell in the river," said some. "He fell safely on the other side; he knows how to control that balloon," said others. And still others asserted, "That's no parachute drop; he shouldn't get paid a cent." Then the crowd of thoughtless humanity forgot about the man and his balloon and lined about the fence to watch the match in progress between the seniors from Vancouver and New Westminster.

In the meanwhile those whose duties kept them in the city saw the balloon descending in the middle of the river, straight down with terrible certainty, with not a breath of air to sweep it to the land. Boats were got ready with eager hands but before they reached the spot the balloon had struck the water. Marble had disappeared from view but the parachute was seized and at the end of the long ropes the inanimate form of the aeronaut was found tied fast.

Still alive, he was taken to the Guichon hotel, to a warm room, a mistake so often made in case of threatened death by drowning, for the patient should always be attended in the open air. A few minutes after the unfortunate man had reached the Guichon he died, not having regained consciousness.

Charles Marble was a stranger in British Columbia, whence he came from Seattle in the employ of Prof. Soper, the Puget Sound balloonist, formerly of Saginaw, Mich. He was about 21 years of age, and had a mother and stepfather, the latter (George Cook) a well known insurance man at Auburn, Wn. What makes his death particularly sad is that he had been hired, it is said, for a paltry sum to make the ascensions, his employer, Prof. Soper, pocketing the $300 received from the fair authorities.

At 5 o'clock this afternoon Prof. Soper had secured another reckless daredevil to do the parachute act, and a portion of the crowd with morbid curiosity largely developed crowded around the limp mass of dirty canvas when the balloon was stretched over the oven for inflation. The customs officers seized it, demanding $24 or no ascension. While Professor Soper and the customs people were still discussing the question, darkness happily came over the scene.

Yesterday's victim was in desperate circumstances, and offered to take the risk for $10, and Soper let him go. There is little doubt that Marble had never made a balloon ascension before. Soper admits that he did everything wrong, got rattled, and waited too long before he dropped, and the doctors finish matters by saying that Marble was not drowned, his heart having stopped, or nearly so, before he touched the water—that he died from the shock, probably being frightened to death.

On Friday and Saturday there are to be ascensions unless the authorities relieve the fair committee of the contract by refusing to allow them. Marble's widowed mother telegraphed for her son's remains to-day.

THE ARCHBISHOPS' CONFERENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 11.—At the conclusion of the Archbishops' conference yesterday, Archbishop Ryan said that very little of public importance had come up in the conference, and that its time had been mostly taken up in discussing matters of discipline. When asked what action had been taken upon the question of recognizing the Hibernian society, after a moment's thought he said: "We have decided to recognize the Ancient Order of Hibernians, that is the American branch, as a most admirable society."

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder World's Fair Highest Award.