Port Arthur Is Blocked

Last Attempt of the Japanese Was More Successful Than Reported.

Graphic Description of the Operations Last Sunday Morning.

Mid Hail of Shell the Vessels Were Taken Into Position and Sunk.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

At sea, March 31 (by De Forest Wireless Telegraph to Wei-Hai-Wei, April 1.)—After his bombardment of Port Arthur, on March 22 Admiral Togo waited for an improvement in the weather before putting into execution his bold scheme for effectively blocking the entrance to the harbor of Port Arthur. As has been previously reported in these wireless despatches, this project was put into effect during the early hours of Sunday morning last. This affair, which resulted in the sinking of four more merchantmen in the neck of narrow of west channel of the entrance to Port Arthur was an enterprise of the most desperate and gallant seamanship and would appear to find no parallel in modern times.

When news that a second attempt to block the channel of Port Arthur became known at the fleet rendezvous the officers who had conducted the first expedition insisted on their right to complete their success which had been only partial.

Admiral Togo countenanced their claim, so the same executive and engineer officers took charge of the four merchantment selected. The crew and the stokers were chosen from fresh volunteers.

The four ships were escorted by the fleet until they approached near to Port Arthur. Then, under cover of darkness the merchantmen were sent forward to attempt their hazardous enterprise, and escorted only by the destroyer and torpedo craft. The moon shone during the earlier hours of the night, but disappeared at midnight. The sea was like glass, as silently and without lights these desperate flotilla steered toward the narrow entrance. Ever and anon the great searchlight on Gold hill was seen as its beam traversed the area of possible attack, and the Japanese officers knew it was only a question of how close it was possible to get before being discovered.

When the expedition was within two miles of its goal, the Russian watch was aroused to suspicion and the searchlight beam swept backwards and forwards in frenzied agitation. The surprise was at an end. Suddenly a solitary gun flashed from the Russian batteries, and immediately the rest of the garrison on shore sprang to their guns. The battle was begun.

In three minutes the Japanese craft were enclosed in a semi-circle of gun flashes, as the concentrated fire of forts and picket destroyers poured into the Japanese vessels. Then the transports were steered directly into the inferno, screaming with the Russian shells. There was then only one mile more to be traversed. Fuses were ore ready. It was 3:30 o'clock. The Chiju Maru led the transports, steering straight into the searchlights playing from Gold Hill upon her, a target for a hundred guns. Onward this vessel led the line of transports towards the west side of the entrance to the harbor. The fuse was then set and the crew and engineers rushed off just in time. There was a moment of suspense, and then the charge exploded in the hold, sinking the steamer about 100 yards from the point at the east side of the harbor entrance.

The Fukui Maru, the next of the transports in line, passed on to the port side of the Chiju Maru, and let go her anchor. Just as the officers and crew pushed clear there was a dull explosion; the vessel had been struck and sunk in the exact place the Japanese desired, by a Russian torpedo fired from within the harbor. So close indeed were the defending destroyers that the Yoneyma Maru, the fourth vessel in the line, went foul of the Russian destroyer and the crew were scorched from the flames of a discharged Russian six-pounder. There was a horrible melee, but the Japanese kept their presence of mind all through it. In spite of the heavy converging cross-fire, the Japanese destroyers were able to pick up all the lifeboats of the transports and notwithstanding the fire of the latter were drowned.

Considering the nature of the attack and the Russian preparation for it, the Japanese casualties were extraordinarily few. The Japanese had one officer, one warrant officer and two men killed, and three officers, six petty officers and three men wounded. The officer killed was a valiant hero, recently promoted for gallantry in the sinking of the Hokoku Maru on February 24 last. This brave fellow met death trying to learn the fate of a warrant officer responsible for the firing of the sinking charge on board the Gukui Maru. Although the vessel was visibly sinking, he went below three times, and then just as he gave up the search, a shell killed him as he was leaving the ship. History records no more gallant sailor. In February he took the Hokooku Maru to the entrance of Port Arthur and, when the vessel was evidently beginning to sink, he remembered that he had left his sword on the bridge and returned to secure it, just escaping as the ship sank.

It would now appear that, with the exception of but a small channel, the Russian fleet is successfully shut up within the harbor of Port Arthur. How far admiral Makaroff is able to destroy the wreckage and remove the debris it is impossible to estimate, but it is believed it will be most difficult for him to gain even the slightest opening, and only for ships of the smallest draught.

A VICTORIAN'S LUCK.

(Arizona Exchange.)

A sensation was caused in mining circles in Sonora the other day, when it was learned that Frank Turner of Victoria, British Columbia, and well known in this State, had discovered that some fractions existed in the famous Mulatos mining zone, had staked them and had his application accepted in the mineral office.

The Mulatos mine is a mountain of free milling gold ore going $6 per ton and plates up to 90 per cent of its values. It has been worked for over one hundred years and some fifteen years ago was the centre of a great scandal, when the samples were salted so they showed values up to $15 per ton, and was the cause of a gigantic lawsuit, when the vendors had to refund $1,500,000 of the purchase price.

Mr. Turner has been around the Mulatos property for some years, and had his suspicions aroused and quietly had the ground surveyed by triangulation, which confirmed his suspicions, and by his sagacity will reap a fortune.

His mysterious movements between Mulatos and the City of Mexico, which have always caused comment, are now explained, and all the old timers are kicking themselves to think that they should be beaten by a tenderfoot.

Turner also, in January, bonded the great Pesqhera ranch of 523,000 acres, and Mr. Mike King, a famous timber expert, is now in London placing it on the market.

This is the property which old General Peskuera, celebrated Indian fighter and reform friend of President Diaz, left to his heirs and is the most magnificent piece of property in America.

SQUIB FACTORY EXPLODES.

Six Persons Killed and Five Fatally Injured in Pennsylvania.

Scranton, Pa., March 31.—Six persons are known to have been killed and five fatally injured by an explosion in the factory of the Dick Squib Company at Priceburg, near here, today. Twenty girls were employed in the factory. It is said that one of the girls threw a squib into a stove and that the force of the explosion was so great that it wrecked the building and set it on fire. The squibs are used in coal mining. The Dick Squib Company occupied only the first floor of the structure, the Callahan family having rooms on the second floor. The Callahan children aged three years and six months respectively were playing on the floor when the explosion occurred and both were killed. The building caught fire and two adjoining buildings burned.

AMERICAN FLEET ASSEMBLES.

Battleship Alabama Gets a Record in Target Practice.

Pensacola, Fla., March 31.—With the arrival here today of the gunboats Newport and Castine from Colon, the largest fleet of United States warships ever assembled in target practice includes seven battleships, five cruisers, seven gunboats, five monitors, two torpedo boat destroyers, besides a number of tenders, colliers and supply boats. The fleet includes more than twenty-five vessels of various classes. The battleship Alabama has established a new world's record for rapidity and accuracy in firing all classes of guns. She came into port today after a week spent at the target range, and her officers report that her record is much better than that of the Kearsarge, made last week. The percentage is being worked out by the target inspectors.

RUSSIAN PRESS ON VICKSBURG INCIDENT

Insist That Commander Did not Join Protest Against The Attack.

St. Petersburg, March 31.—A correspondent of the Russ who has just returned from Korea, writes that he knows, from official sources, that the commander of the United States steamship Vicksburg did not join in the protest of the other commanders at the Japanese entering Port to engage the Varlag and Koreets; and later, after the fight, when the Vicksburg's surgeon, his services were refused. The correspondent is very bitter. He adds that he saw American dennis of the incident when he arrived at Port, and said that they are not convincing. He continued: "I saw the report of one of the captains to his government, in which the action of the American captain was set forth clearly and correctly in its true colors." In official circles the action of some newspapers here in attempt to revive hostile feelings against the United States on account of the vicksburg incident is sincerely deprecated. The Associated Press is authorized to announce that the government has nothing to criticize in the action of Commander Mensfield. Moreover, it does not sympathize with the Novoe Vremya's editorial of yesterday pointing to the United States as the real commercial and political foe of Great Britain and Russia.

VALENTINE DILLON DEAD.

Dublin, March 31.—Valentine B. Dillon, twice lord mayor of Dublin, died today.

JEROME AFTER THE CRIMINALS

Makes Strong Appeal at Albany For Legislation Against Gambling.

Albany, N. Y., March 31.—"This bill is not aimed at one man alone, though undoubtedly there is one especially mentioned, who would be affected. I want a chance to get after 'Honest John' Kelly, honest only in name; Lou Ludlum, that crook from Connecticut, who stations two wooden Indian policemen outside the front door of his gambling establishment while the crowd goes in at the side door; Frank Farrell, whose place in 33rd street must have cost $200,000 to fit up; Lou Bette, who is running the house of Al. Adams, now in Sing Sing, where he receives weekly reports from Betts; 'Shang' Draper, the notorious Manhattan bank burglar; and I could run through the list for an hour," said District Attorney Jerome today urging the Assembly code committee to report favorably the Dowling witness bill.

"The importance does not attach so much to the individual criminal and his conviction, but it means a lot that these men can start up and defy not only the law and those sworn to enforce it, but your legislators, who put the laws upon the statute books.

"Think of the power and defiance of this criminal who came from Providence with his art gallery, his whistlers and his beautiful vases, whose defiance and evasions of the law have left a trail of disgrace over the state."

These statements were made by the district attorney when he came to urge the imperative need of legislation because of existing conditions, and after an extended discussion of the legal aspects of the bill.

Turning again to the case of Canfield, Mr. Jerome paid his respects to Senator Brackett, and brought to mind the bill which passed the Senate in a former year, to enable Canfield to defy the law in Saratoga, and he begged the committee to consider the disrespect for the law and its fairness which would be engendered by a man exercising great power with such affrontery, "that he could have a Senator on the floor of the Senate to advocate that bill at the moment the blood of a suicide was trickling from that Senator's doorstep. I do not justify Cole Mitchell's character, but he was a victim of the unequal application of the law."

"When a crook can force through the Senate a bill which puts a wall around his Saratoga gambling establishment so that a warrant issued outside the town cannot be served against him, and a senator characterized by the responsible leader of the Senate as this man's paid attorney defends the measure, then I say it is time that something should be done." The committee did not act on the bill.

THE ROYAL REUNION.

King and Queen Arrive at Copenhagen and Receive Hearty Welcome.

Copenhagen, March 30.—King Edward and Queen Alexandra arrived here today to attend a family gathering on the occasion of King Christian's birthday, April 8. They were received at the station by all the members of the Royal family and many officials and diplomats. The Royal party then drove to the palace, enthusiastically greeted by great crowds of people lining the route.

A SIGNIFICANT REQUEST.

U. S. Military Attache Required to Return From Ping Yang.

London, April 1.—The Seoul correspondent of the Daily Mail says that the military authorities have required Brig.-General H. Allen, U. S. military observer with the Japanese army, to return to Seoul from Ping Yang, until they are able to provide him with fitting accommodations.

LOCK-OUT IN IOWA.

Mine Owners Refuse to Accept Workers' Demands and Works are Idle.

Des Moines, Ia., March 31.—Unable to agree to an arbitration of their differences, the Iowa miners and operators split in joint conference, with the result that every mine in the state will be shut down, throwing 13,500 miners out of employment. The conference adjourned after a session covering six weeks. The split resulted in the refusal of the operators to raise the wages of unskilled laborers and to lower the price of blasting powder. Summed up, the situation is: First—The miners demand a reduction in the price of blasting powder from $2 to $1.75 per can. They demand a uniform advance in the scale of wages paid the men, and river districts No. 1 and 4 shall receive the same scale as districts 2 and 3. John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, has been asked to come to Des Moines and aid in a readjustment of the difficulties. It is believed the lockout may be the beginning of a long and hard struggle.

Martial Law At New Chwang

No Official News of Declaration Has Reached London on Subject.

Russian Government Apparently Has Not Sanctioned the Viceroy's Act.

London, March 29.—Up to late last night no official communication has reached the foreign office confirming the declaration of martial law at New Chwang, and officials are inclined to the opinion that this indicated the Russian government had not yet sanctioned Viceroy Alexieff's action.

The declaration of martial law is somewhat anxiously discussed by the London morning papers, among which the question is mooted as to whether Russia is desirous of dragging China into the conflict. The Standard, recognizing that the neutral powers may protest, considers that "it will be difficult to refuse to either belligerent the right to regard strategic considerations as paramount over all others in Manchuria."

The Morning Post considers that Russia's action is calculated to relieve Japan of some embarrassment by removing some of the difficulties Japan would have experienced in dealing with New Chwang in the event of it becoming necessary to attack the Russian forces at that point.

"According to a rumor, sixty-five Japanese transports, escorted by four cruisers, approached New Chwang Saturday and then disappeared southward. It is stated that Viceroy Alexieff will return to Europe in a few days."

The Morning Post's New Chwang correspondent learns that the Japanese will not land an expedition in the Liao river valley before April 20th, as their transports are engaged in conveying troops to Korea.

The correspondent at Shan Hai Kwan of the Daily Mail asserts that the Chinese have received official authorization to turn over to the Japanese the plant of the Shan Hai Kwan railway.

The Standard's correspondent at Tientsin states that, in compliance with Viceroy Alexieff's demand, the governor-general of Feng Tien has removed his troops to a distance of sixty miles from Mukden. He adds that the Russians are left in complete control of the revenue and other departments.

The Wei Hai Wei correspondent of the Times says: "A Chinese junk which has arrived here, having seen on the morning of March 28th eleven noteworthy Russian vessels manoeuvring in the vicinity of a Japanese fleet, which was also manoeuvring. No sound of firing was heard here."

LOOKING AHEAD.

Japan Already Planning for Renewal of Fleets After War.

Berlin March 31.—That Japan is already planning for a rapid renewal of her fleet as soon as the conflict with Russia is ended is inferred from a journey made by the Japanese naval attache and a number of higher Japanese officers to the Stettin shipyards today. They made a careful inspection of the yards, noting their capacity for the building of various craft, particularly or torpedo boats.

U. S. NAVAL TROPHY.

Washington, March 31.—A trophy which will be completed for each year by the vessels of the navy, has been received by the secretary of the United States navy. It is in the form of a flag, and shows two battleships in action. It is a foot high, about two feet long and bears an inscription to the effect that it is presented by order of the President.

THE DARLINGTON DISASTER.

New York, March 31.—The grand jury today made a presentment of the Darlington hotel disaster, censuring the city building department for methods employed in permitting the family construction of the building and recommending the dismissal by the department of Inspector French, who had charge of the Darlington structure.

COMMEMORATING THE PERRY TREATY

Americans Start a Fund For Benefit Of Sailors and Soldiers Families.

Tokio, March 31.—At a meeting of Americans and Japanese today in commemoration of the anniversary of the signing of the Perry treaty between Japan and the United States, an American war charity called the Perry memorial relief fund, was organized with much enthusiasm. The sum of $37,500 was subscribed at once, and it was decided to organize committees in all the larger cities of the United States. The fund will be disbursed under the direction of the Emperor, practically for the purpose of aiding the destitute families of soldiers and sailors. Count Okuma, at one time Japanese premier, made the principal address at the commemoration exercises.

Bishop McKim, of the American Episcopal mission, suggested the organization of the charity. Bishop McKim's idea was at once approved and acted upon. Count Matsugata proposed cheers for the President of the United States, and Mr. Griscome replied by calling for cheers for the Emperor of Japan.

Day's Doings At Ottawa

Well Known and Respected Citizen of the Capital Passes Away.

The Customs Returns For Nine Months Show Half Million Increase.

Changes in the Fifth—Resumption of Mail Service to New Chwang.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, March 31.—One of Ottawa's best known citizens passed away today in the person of Major S. Woodburn. He was the founder of the Ottawa Journal.

Senator Reid of Quesnel is improved in health.

Aulay Morrison has arrived for the session.

The customs revenue for the past nine months amounts to $30,163,263, an increase of $458,034.

The Countess of Minto passed a good night and is practically without pain. Her Excellency was to have sailed for England May 14 to present her daughters, Ladies Eileen and Ruby Elliott at court. This will not be possible for the June drawing-room as Lady Minto will not likely be able to be out until early in June.

Appointments Fifth British Columbia Regiment: To be provisional lieutenants, S. Smith, vice Stephen, retired, and C. M. Roberts, to complete establishment.

Information from the Japanese post office department states that the mail service from Canada New Chwang, China, via Japan, which was interrupted in consequence of the closing of the Japanese post office at New Chwang, can be resumed. Correspondence for New Chwang will be transmitted via Kobe, Japanese post office at Tien Tsin and Chinese postal service.

H. W. Brock, private secretary to Sir Frederick Borden, is to be appointed director of contracts for the militia department, and C. L. Panet, son of the late Colonel Panet, who many years ago was deputy minister of militia, will be secretary to Sir F. Borden.

DUTY ON COAL.

There is a movement on here for the removal of the duty on soft coal imported from the United States. The duty is 53 cents per ton. The Ottawa Board of Trade has adopted a resolution unanimously in favor of the removal of the duty. All the railway companies and manufacturers are in favor of the duty being removed.

NEWS NOTES OF THE DOMINION

Favorable Report as to Colonel Otter—Printers Ask an Increased Scale.

Toronto, March 31.—Lieut.-Col. Otter was conscious all day yesterday, and his physicians are still hopeful for his recovery.

The city job printers want $15 a week and an eight-hour day instead of $13.25 a week and nine hours a day. A conference will be held with the representatives of the Typographical Union and owners of job shops on Monday to arrange a scale, which will take effect June 1.

President Curry, of the Toronto Lacrosse Club, states that not a single man of last year's team will figure on this year's twelve. If the club have any team at all it would be made up of junior players.

Fifteen horses were suffocated in a fire which broke out at the Dominion livery and boarding stables, York street, early this morning. About thirty animals were in the building at the time. Several were led out by firemen badly burned. The loss is about $8,000.

STRIKE AVERTED.

Glace Bay, March 31.—A threatened strike at No. 2 Dominion collieries, which gave rise to fears of involving all the miners in the employ of the Dominion Coal Company, has been avoided by the request of the miners being acceded to and the dismissed firemen reinstated.

NOVA SCOTIA STEEL.

Halifax, March 31.—The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Steel Company was held at New Glasgow yesterday. Reports for 1903 showed that the company had had the best year in its history, the volume of business being over $200,000 in excess of that of 1902. The profits for the year were $859,397.19, and balance brought forward from 1902 was $453,149.42, making a total profit of $1,312,546.62.

ENGLISHMAN DROWNED.

Chatham, March 31.—"Hans" Cummings, a young Englishman, only out from the old country a short time, was drowned while gathering driftwood at Kent bridge yesterday.

THE EASTERN FLOODS.

Indianapolis, March 29.—All rivers tributary to the Wabash and Ohio are overflowing and great damage has been done to farms and buildings throughout southern Indiana. At Vincennes the danger seems greatest. Every precaution is being taken to prevent breaking levees. All sewers have been stopped with sand bags. Nearly all of the large manufacturing plants have been forced to close. The city gas, electric light and power plants are in danger. At Petersburg the river has backed into several mines; Hazelton is completely isolated. Between Evansville and Terre Haute several levees have been broken, flooding hundreds of valuable farms. Today the east span of the big steel bridge at Bloomfield, the only remaining bridge across the White river for a distance of fifty miles, was swept away.

Detroit, March 29.—Five lives have been lost and probably upwards of $5,000,000 worth of damage to property has been done by the flood, which has devastated many parts of Michigan during the past five days. Tonight the indications are that the end is in sight, although conditions are still very bad at Grand Rapids, and also along the course of the Saginaw river. Near Saginaw a number of people were taken from their flooded homes by a tug today. Hundreds of cattle and horses are dead near Saginaw. At Grand Rapids the flood is receding.

Many Japanese Killed.

London, April 1.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Seoul reports that there is continuous skirmishing between Ping Yang and Wijin, and that many Japanese have been killed. The correspondent adds that a Korean spy at Ping Yang has been shot by the Japanese.

TELEPHONE CABLE LINE.

Proposed System From Bellingham to Victoria.

Bellingham, March 31.—President William Farrell, of the British Columbia Telephone Company, is here perfecting the organization of an American corporation, which is to build a telephone cable line from this city to Victoria, B. C., a distance of seventy miles. Mr. Farrell says that it is easier to connect Vancouver Island with the Mainland by this route than by running a line to the city of Vancouver.

WILL PAY TODAY.

Washington, March 31.—President Roosevelt and Attorney-General Knox had a conference today subsequent to the receipt from the Associated Press of the information that the government of Colombia had lost its suit in the French courts against the new Panama Canal Company. Attorney-General Knox afterwards announced that there now was no further reason for delay. The payment of the $40,000,000 to the company and the $10,000,000 to Panama will be made April 1st. The treaty with Panama is so interpreted as to make the two payments simultaneous.

THE RUSSIAN COURT.

Paris, April 1.—The correspondent of the Echo De Paris at St. Petersburg cables: "I am authorized to state that the court will go to Tsarskoye Seloon Saturday, remaining there until the summer, when it will remove to the palace at Peterhof.

The Turning Of the Tide

Remarkable Change In Public Sentiment In the Last Nine Months.

The Liberal Machine Thoroughly Discredited in the Constituencies.

(From the Montreal Star.)

In Canada, so much is it the rule for bye-elections to go in favor of the governments of the day, that between general elections nobody very much looks for the opposition to capture seats or cut down adverse majorities.

The fact is that only twice in the history of Canada during forty-four years has there been in the loss of bye-elections any evidence of decadence of strength of the party in power; once when the loss of bye-contests showed the approaching fall of Alexander Mackenzie's government, and again when similar losses to the Bowell administration foreshadowed the approach of Conservative defeat.

The history of Liberal losses during the past year is most interesting and significant.

In Manitoba, Premier Roblin appealed to the people on July 22, 1903, and despite the stoutest opposition on the part of Hon. Clifford Sifton and the whole machinery of the Liberal party at Ottawa, he swept the province, carrying 32 seats out of 40, largely increasing his majority.

In British Columbia, politics had been in an unsettled state for some years, when in 1903, the Conservatives, under Premier McBride and Mr. C. A. Wilson, determined to run the elections on straight party lines. The Dominion government took up the cudgels for the provincial opposition, and the fiercest ited contest, the Conservatives carried the province. The majority was only two at the start, but it has since been increased to five since that date.

In Ontario, where the results of the last general election shattered the power of the Ross administration, and though the Ross government has been backed up throughout by the Dominion government, the Conservatives, on October 27, 1903, carried Muskoka, changing a Liberal majority of 86 in 1902 to a Conservative majority of 200.

On December 26, 1903, the combined forces of the federal and provincial governments were routed in North Renfrew where A. E. Dunlop was elected by 531, reversing the Liberal majority of 459 given J. W. Murro in 1902.

In January, 1904, the Liberal majority in North Oxford was cut down from 1,200 to something less than 300.

At the federal bye-elections of February 16th, in East Bruce, the Conservative majority of 43 in 1900 was increased to over 200. In East Hamilton, the Conservative candidate changed a majority of 221 in 1900 to one of 450.

In New Brunswick, St. John city, where a Liberal was elected by 997 in 1900, Dr. J. W. Daniel, Conservative, carried the constituency by 274 majority last month.

In Quebec again the federal bye-elections, on February 16, 1904, resulted in all Liberal majorities being materially reduced.

In St. Hyacinthe, J. B. Banchet, Liberal, was elected by 187 majority, as compared with 1,111 given Hon M. E. Bernier in 1900.

In Hochelaga, Mr. L. A. Rivet had 278 majority, compared with 635 majority given to Mr. Madore in 1900.

In St. James Division, of Montreal, the Liberal majority was reduced by about 70 votes, as compared with the bye-election of 1902, and by over 500 as compared with the general elections of 1900.

Previous to this the Conservatives carried Laval, which went Liberal in 1900.

In provincial politics, Portneuf which had gone Liberal by acclamation in 1900, and by 224 in 1897, went Conservative by 287 on March 10, 1904.

Maskinonge, which went Liberal by acclamation in 1900, and by 447 majority in 1897, returned a Conservative by about 200 majority last week.

In Berthier, where three Federal ministers and a like number of provincial ministers and numerous members supporting both, threw themselves into the county, the majority given the Liberal federal candidate in 1900 was cut in two.

Previously L'Islet, Soulanges and Stanstead were won by the Conservatives in bye-elections.

In West Queen's Prince Edward Island, Horace Hazzard, Liberal, was elected by 285 majority on February 16, 1904, as compared with 475 given Donald Farquharson, Liberal, in January, 1902, and 735 majority for Sir L. H. Davies at the general election of 1900.

In the provincial bye-election held yesterday, in the second district of King's county, Premier Peters' own constituency, Mr. McIsaac, Conservative, got 80 majority, whereas in 1900 McLaughlin, the Premier's colleague, was elected by 44. In the bye-election held yesterday in Charlottetown, the Liberal majority was reduced from 492 to 330.

TO RENAME PORT ARTHUR.

Moscow, March 30.—The Gazette urges the rechristening of Port Arthur as Port Nicholas, as the English name sounds badly to Russian ears.

HICKS-BEACH RETIRES.

London, March 29.—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, writing to the chairman of his committee at West Bristol, which constituency he represents, says that, while he does not anticipate an early dissolution of parliament, he has definitely decided to retire from active politics.

WINNIPEG CLEARINGS.

Winnipeg, Man., March 31.—The Winnipeg clearing house returns for the week ending March 31st, 1904, were $3,446,756; corresponding week 1903, $3,620,079; same week 1902, $2,600,902.

RECIPROCITY IN TALENT.

Albany, N. Y., March 31.—Bills introduced in the Senate today, including Senator Stevens', giving graduates of the Ontario Veterinary college, of Toronto, who are citizens of this state the right to practice veterinary surgery without other examination.

STRIKE DECLARED OFF.

Schenectady, N. Y., March 31.—The strike inaugurated yesterday by the moulders, core makers, casting chippers and cleaners, laborers and crane men of the General Electric works, has proven false. All the strikers returned to work this morning.

THE BALKAN SITUATION.

Rome, March 31.—The governments of Italy and Austria have concluded a complete agreement regarding affairs in the Balkans by which the status quo in those states are assured, both powers pledging themselves to undertake territorial occupation. The agreement is regarded as putting an effectual stop to the trouble in the Balkan states.

TO PROBE THE POST OFFICE.

Washington, March 31.—Representative De Armond of Missouri today introduced a resolution providing that the Speaker appoint five members of the house to fully investigate the United States Post Office department, the investigation to be directed, "especially" towards clearing the innocent from a shadow of unmerited suspicion and to uncovering the inefficient, careless and offending.

NORTHPORT PLANT HAS SHUT DOWN

Big Smelter Which Handled Le Roi Output Suspends Operations.

Northport, March 31.—The Northport Smelting and Refining Company, whose smelter at this place handles all the Le Roi ores from Rossland, B. C., has blown out its six furnaces and suspended all regular work. Manager Wilson declined to give reasons for the close of the works. Some new order of things has near at hand been given for forty of the coke bunkers, the pulming of composed carts, machinery, etc., and other preparations for an extended suspension. The men in all been laid off, a considerable number of whom have received their time.

Northport would seriously feel the effect of a prolonged shut down of the smelter. Business men are worried and several deals for Northport realty are held up pending definite information concerning the plans of the smelting company.

In the absence of definite information business in Northport is practically at a standstill. The ore trains from the Le Roi at Rossland have been laid off and it is said the mine will close until the smelter can again treat its ore.

A rumor seemingly from official sources this morning is that the smelter's treatment of the Le Roi ores has not been satisfactory owing to lack of flux of the right kind, and that Manager Wilson has suggested the overhauling of the smelter furnaces and the installing of an up-to-date sampler to meet the demand of custom ores that contain the fluxing properties needed by the Le Roi ores.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE THIBETANS

Arms and Ammunition Found on the Dead are of Russian Make.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tuna, March 31.—One of the most significant facts developed in today's engagement with the Thibetans, is that three of the escort of the Thibetan generals were armed with rifles bearing the Russian imperial arms. I have personal knowledge through a favor of Col. Younghusband, it having been taken from one of the Thibetan officers killed in the engagement. It has also been found that the ammunition used by the Thibetans is of Russian manufacture.

Tuna, British India, March 31.—News has been received here of severe fighting, the Thibetans having attacked the British mission under Colonel Younghusband. There were two engagements and the Thibetans were repulsed with heavy losses, the British captured the Thibetan camp of Guru.

While the British advance has practically been unopposed, the expedition suffered great hardships from the great cold, and it was some times found impossible to use the Maxims and rifles owing to the congealing of the oil. At 8 o'clock this morning the flying column to reconnoitre the Thibetan camp at Guru, where a general from Lhassa came to interview Colonel Younghusband. The general asked the colonel to retire with his mission to Yatung for the purpose of carrying on negotiations, threatening an attack if the mission proceeded.

Colonel Younghusband replied that negotiations had been proceeding fruitlessly for fifteen years and that a retirement was now impossible. The Thibetan general withdrew and Colonel Younghusband ordered his troops to endeavor to disperse the Thibetans blocking the road without firing upon them.

MAKAROFF MAKES A BRILLIANT DASH

Attacks Defenceless old Steamer and Valiantly Sends Her to the Bottom.

Tokio, March 31.—The action of the Russian warships in sinking the Japanese coasting steamer Hanyei Maru Saturday is deeply resented by the Japanese. In official circles the attack upon and sinking of this vessel near Tachin island is pronounced to be a clear violation of the neutrality of China, because being an act of wantonness against a defenceless craft. The Hanyei Maru was an old steamer and had been chartered by some correspondents of a Japanese newspaper. After transferring ten Japanese and seven Chinese from the Hanyei Maru, the fire of two vessels was directed upon the steamer, and one of the Russian torpedo boat destroyers sent several shells through her hull. When she appeared to be sinking the Russian ships started at full speed in the direction of Port Arthur. Three of the crew of the Hanyei Maru concealed themselves on board when the Russians came over to remove them, and later escaped in a junk from the sinking vessel. The Japanese generally pronounce this affair to be a barbarous breach of law.

Surrender To Seattle

Shipping Men Indignant at Dominion Government's Rescinding Order.

Remarkable Volte Face in Respect to Yukon Coasting Law.

Many Think the Action Is a Forfeiture of Valuable Right.

A telegram to Acting Collector John C. Newbury, received Wednesday evening, said:

"You are hereby advised that the instructions issued in February, 1903, under the authority of an order-in-Council, as the free entry of Canadian goods carried by foreign vessels from ports in British Columbia, via St. Michaels, into the Yukon, have been renewed. You may grant certificates accordingly in the usual form."

Not for many years have Victoria shipping men felt and expressed more indignation and disgust than they did yesterday afternoon and evening, when it became known that the Dominion government had rescinded its own order abolishing the privilege granted to American vessels of carrying Canadian goods from Canadian ports, no such privilege being granted in return by the United States. The conduct of the Dominion authorities has caused the shippers around the harbor to express their feelings in strong terms, denouncing the "traitors who have sold Canadian interests to the United States corporations." Such is the way in which one well-known shipping man put it, and his sentiments were heartily seconded by others who stood near him. Most of the shipping men were too angry to discuss the matter. They contented themselves with the comment that Canada evidently dare not attempt to manage its own internal affairs for its own benefit for fear of incurring the displeasure of some American trading company or corporation.

This incomprehensible stroke of the Dominion government's coming so soon after the outburst of popular indignation against the supposed act of expensive deference to the United States in the matter of the Alaska Boundary, has struck everybody aghast. The question is asked: "Where does Canada stand as a nation, yes, even as a colony?"

"Nothing so glaringly humiliating, so grossly unfair, or so cowardly, has been perpetrated by the present administration since it took office," said another shipper, discussing the case. "Think of it! Here is a government which solemnly passes an order-in-council, no doubt after due deliberation; authorizes its officials to send it forth as the law of the country. Seattle flies into a rage; Seattle newspapers clamor against the taking away of this dripping roast. But our own Canadian Liberal newspapers applaud their government's action as most patriotic, just the right thing needed to show the Americans and the world that we here, on this side the line, are a self-respecting, self-governing people, able to control our own affairs and not afraid to do so. It is good reading those editorial utterances of the British Columbia Liberal press on this action of the Dominion government. Here, they said, was a government that knew how to uphold the honor of the country, and take a paternal care of the interests of the people.

"Then comes this paralyzing order-in-council from Ottawa, betokening a change of view so radical, so utterly contrary to the former view as to make even the officials who have to promulgate it, gasp. Was this rescinding order-in-council also passed after due deliberation? The haste with which it came upon the heels of its forerunner abolishing the privilege, leads to the suspicion that influences of a most powerful kind must have been at work upon the members of the Laurier cabinet when they would thus stultify themselves and bring humiliation and disgrace upon their country by this pusillanimous conduct."

Said another: "What are the people to think of future orders-in-council coming from this extraordinary collection of rulers at Ottawa? Are these orders to be taken seriously or only in a Pickwickian sense? It is well to review the history of this unique instance of infirmity of purpose supplied by Canada's wonderful government. Along comes the order-in-council abolishing the unjust and ridiculous privilege accorded to American bottoms; it having been pointed out by the government that the necessity for this had long ago passed, and that the Canadian shipping in Pacific waters was more than ample to handle all the goods bound for the north or therefrom. Jubilation amongst the Canadian shipping owners, complimentary references by them and by the Liberal organs regarding the patriotic stand taken by the government. Across the line consternation, indignation and protest unlimited. It is the passing of a royal good thing; it is the taking away of something for nothing; it did not cost the United States the smallest consideration of any kind. The queer law was made at a time when Canadian shipping was not sufficient to cope with the traffic to and from the north; hence, it was Canada's own particular business, and the American shippers, who reaped fatly from the one-sided privilege, had no objection to the order-in-council authorizing them to carry Canadian goods being passed regularly every year.

"But when the just complaint of the Canadian shipping interests on the Pacific Coast have weight with the government and the privilege is abolished, then ascends the howl of wrath. The howl has evidently taken all the fight and the patriotism out of the Ottawa government, for they have executed a climb down almost indecorous in its indecent haste. It was as if they had said to the American corporations who were mainly concerned, 'Gentlemen, we didn't know you would have taken it so much to heart. Don't do us any harm, please, and we'll take it all back, and promise never to do it any more.' The sardonic 'thanks awfully' of the American corporations can be imagined." But this "disgraceful backdown of the Dominion government," this "treacherous surrender both of rights and self-respect," as another indignant Victoria shipper said, provokes not one word of comment from the Liberal press organs. They are dumb before their masters' act. Even for the organs it is too sudden a flop. The most insufferable part of this affair is that the Dominion government in disgracing and making a fool of itself has also held up Canada to the ridicule of the world as a country which dare not have an opinion unless it is protected by patent in the United States patent office, and warranted not to give any offence to any city of the Great Republic."

The explanation for the new proceeding of the Dominion government is eagerly awaited by all the shipping men in Victoria.

A DECIDEDLY ILL WIND.

Publicity Given Chicago Man Through Cyclone's Work Lands Him in Jail.

Chicago, March 30.—The same cyclone that made James McInery homeless in Indiana last week found him a new home in the Indiana penitentiary. Justice moving almost as fast as the cyclone itself has decreed that he serve five years at hard labor for bigamy. Mrs. Olivine Amelia McIntyre, of Chicago, who claims that McInery deserted her in Hamilton, Ont., fifteen years ago, chanced to see his name published in the list of injured by the storm. The result was the identification and arrest of McInerny who years ago was married to a girl of the suburbs.

The British workmen have managed to put away a goodly little nest egg in friendly, building, co-operative and trade union societies and savings banks. The records show that 27,580,000 of them have $1,814,000,000 in such savings.

Mr. J. D. Taylor Scores Liberals

Conservative Candidate For Westminster at Next Election Delivers Address.

Shows How Unfairly Government Has Treated British Columbia.

In the Conservative Club rooms last night, says the Vancouver News-Advertiser, Mr. J. D. Taylor, the candidate for New Westminster, gave an address on the political questions of the hour. Mr. Walter Taylor, president of the club, was in the chair, and on the platform with him were seated, besides Mr. J. D. Taylor, Attorney-General Wilson and Mr. A. H. B. Magowan, M. P. P.

In opening the meeting, President Taylor called attention to the necessity of the ward committees organizing at once. Everyone should try to see that all possible names were put on the list before it closed at 5 o'clock on Monday afternoon. Everything should be prepared, as the government was liable to bring on the election at any time, and take them at a disadvantage. The attorney-general said that the primary object of the meeting was to hear Mr. Taylor, the party's candidate for New Westminster. He did not come himself prepared to make a speech. He had spoken there a short time ago on minor questions, the interest in which had largely cooled down since. There was one thing, however, on which he meant to speak in season and out of season, even at the risk of being considered a crank, and that was the relations of the Dominion and the provincial governments. During fourteen years this province had paid $400,000 to the Dominion government for fishing licenses, and in other ways British Columbia had been exploited till, when the present government took office, it was on the verge of ruin. This was a subject on which he would have more to say yet—like a serial story in the magazines, it was to be continued. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. J. D. Taylor was received with cheers. He said it was not his first appearance on any stage, but he would ask for some of the indulgences of a debutant. He could furnish facts, but would ask them to excuse the trimmings. He would like men to examine their minds and ask themselves what the contest between Liberals and Conservatives was about? The parties were not divided on broad general lines. They were both Protectionists—the only question was how best to adjust the tariff to the requirements of the country. Mr. Taylor then referred to the change which had come over the personnel of the government at Ottawa. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier was elected to power he drew upon the provinces for his strength. But several of these giants had dropped out, and had been succeeded by pigmies.

The speaker then touched up the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme, and criticized severely the bargain in regard to the Winnipeg and Moncton section, whereby the government had practically agreed to pay $27,000,000 for the railway company in interest alone. That was what they got by Sir Wilfrid Laurier allowing an illegitimate concession to be "grafted" on a legitimate business bargain. It was generally thought in the East that the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme was a scheme to supply funds for the coming election. The speaker then commended them for allowing an extra three years for beginning and