

AFGHANISTAN !!!

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—Eleven vessels of the Cronstadt fleet have gone to the Baltic. Gen. Komaroff and Major Alikhanoff arrived at Sarakhs on the 20th. It is thought the first conflict between Russia and England will occur in the Pacific.

VARNIA, April 30.—A British ironclad is steaming to and fro through the Straits of the Dardanelles to prevent the Turkish authorities sinking torpedoes. England's vigorous preparations for a naval war cause much anxiety in the Black Sea ports, most of which are poorly fortified.

The News says the idea of localizing the war is chimerical. The Baltic powers have no more right to close the Baltic than England and France have to close the English Channel. Turkey is entitled to close the Dardanelles, but those who believe that Russia will be safe from attack in the Black Sea must be exceedingly credulous, and would be likely also to believe that the Sultan wants to see Russia at Constantinople.

PERMANENT GARRISON.

LONDON, May 1.—Russia has established permanent garrisons at Krasnodorsk, Askabad, and Chikishar.

AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY.

An agreement has been concluded between England and Turkey by which the latter will allow England vessels to pass through the Dardanelles in the event of war with Russia. In return for this favour Turkey is to be allowed to send an expedition to occupy the Soudan by way of Suakin, and England will restore Cyprus to Turkey at the end of five years, and guarantee the integrity of the status of the Porte.

AGREEMENT WITH ITALY.

A diplomat well informed as to the recent negotiation is the authority for the statement that a complete understanding has been established between Great Britain and Italy, amounting to an alliance offensive and defensive. The agreement takes the form of an unofficial memorandum, the contents being known only to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries and their officials.

LONDON, May 2.—Ship owners in the North of England are united in refusing all Russian offers to charter.

LIVERPOOL, May 2.—The captains of several Russian vessels here have received orders to leave port without waiting for loads.

TURKEY, May 2.—It is stated that the Russians have occupied Kiliman on the Keshk river and are making a road to Merchak.

NEW YORK, May 2.—It is believed that the Russian corvette "Strelak" is short handed and will take on some Russian recruits here.

LONDON, May 4.—In the House of Lords, this afternoon, Lord Granville stated that England and Russia had agreed to renew negotiations in London concerning the Afghan frontier question,

and that the details had been arranged for the meeting of the delimitation commission. England and Russia agreed that the difficulties arising from the Penjdeh incident should be submitted to full investigation and reference to friendly powers.

VARNA, May 4.—The Porte hears that Russia is massing troops at Odessa and Sebastopol, and holding them ready to embark for a place near the Bosphorus, if England attempts to force the Dardanelles. The Porte has decided to fortify the defences of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles in all possible means without delay.

COPENHAGEN, May 4.—An English man-of-war has passed the Skaw for the Cattegat. Two ironclads, of unknown nationality, passed the Great Belt on Friday for the Baltic. Denmark and Sweden will maintain neutrality in the event of war.

THE NORTH-WEST REBELLION

SADDEST CEREMONY OF ALL.

Clarke's Crossing, N.W.T., April 27.—Yesterday was a sad experience for our troops, as the remains of several brave boys were borne to their last resting place near the scene of the battle at Fish Creek. They were Private Hutchinson, of No. Co., 96th regiment; Private Ferguson, the same; Private Ennis, of No. 4 Co., 90th; and Gunner Demontilly, of "A" Battery, Quebec. Poor Arthur Watson, of the Toronto School Infantry, died while the obsequies of his companions were taking place. D'Arch Baker has since died. The roll call was a melancholy spectacle and many a half-suppressed "too bad, poor fellow" could be heard as the report was announced "dead," "seriously wounded," or "wounded." No clergyman was present with the force so that the funeral services had to be read by officers. It was a solemn and impressive ceremony for all that, and brave men who had stood all the hardships of the march unflinchingly, who had stood motionless as the rebel bullets whizzed past them, whose nerves had remained braced even as these poor fellows who were being laid to rest fell mortally shot, gave way and tears cursed down their bronzed faces in streams. It was a sight that no man of the whole force will ever forget. Major-Gen. Middleton conducted the ceremony in person and was evidently deeply affected. He has been hideous, and gentleness personified ever since the engagement, constantly visiting the wounded and expressing earnest hopes for their recovery. To the men he has been wonderfully considerate and forlorn. Rough monuments were erected around the graves to show where the bodies were interred, and to whom they belonged.

Major Boulton, commanding the scouts, gives a vivid description of the commencement of the fight at Fish Creek. He was riding well ahead of the column with sixteen scouts, eight on each side of the trail. The advance was nearing a bush when a horseman

who had been skirmishing away out ahead, dashed up to the Major and reported seeing thirteen camp fires on a fresh trail leading to Batoche. Boulton signalled Gen. Middleton, who was at his side in a moment. Capt. Johnston and four men followed, and with Major Boulton rode on to where the sixteen scouts were massed. Just as they came up the scouts spied fifty mounted rebels coming down the trail. The half-breeds jumped from their horses and took to the woods. A minute later and a volley blazed out from the shelter at the loyal scouts. Boulton's men had been slow in dismounting, but when the rebels opened fire they sprang from their horses and, lying flat on the ground, commenced to pour Winchester bullets into the Half-breeds' retreat. It was here that the scouts' rank was thinned out. In the first volley Trooper D'Arcy Baker who has since died was struck in the chest. He fell from his horse. He shouted bravely to Major Boulton, "What shall I do?" "Join yourself to the rear," answered the officer, and the mortally wounded man dragged himself towards the rear, where he was found by the 90th bandsman. Major Boulton was

ALWAYS AT THE FRONT.

and his escape is marvellous. Six of his scouts were wounded in the advance skirmish with the enemy. All the officers of the 90th were well forward in the battle and fought shoulder to shoulder with the men. Quarter-master McTavish rode through the very thick of the fight, but came off untouched. Major McKend had several close calls, and Majors Boswell and Buchan behaved themselves like the cool brave soldiers they are. Capt. Forest had several miraculous escapes. Men were shot either side of where he was lying. "Alié" Ferguson was next to Forest in the first brush with the enemy. The volunteers were prostrate on the hillside opposite the rebel rifle pits. Ferguson and Foster were

TRYING TO PICK OFF THE SHARPshootERS

as they rose from their pits to take aim. Suddenly, young Ferguson twisted partly round on his elbow, and gasped, "My God, Captain, I am shot," and sank back dead. Forest took hurried aim, and put a bullet in the Half-breed who killed Ferguson as he was getting the range for another shot. Buchanan, the drummer boy of the 90th, acted like a man. While the other bandsmen were searching for wounded, the youngster was scurrying all over the field with ammunition for the men. He was considerably pained that he could not get hold of a rifle. Alex. McLean, of Portage La Prairie, driver of the ammunition waggons, ventured everywhere with cartridges for the men. Private Hutchison was killed close to where Ferguson died. A round bullet entered the corner of his eye.

DEATH WAS INSTANTANEOUS.

He was forty years old. Private Ennis was shot through the neck, and a bullet pierced private Wheeler's forehead as he was charging gallantly up the ravine. When his body was found Sunday after-

noon prowling Indians had stripped it of the coat and vest. Up to Thursday night the death roll in the 90th includes Lieut. Chas. Swinford, private A. W. Ferguson, J. Hutchinson, Geo. Wheeler, and William Ennis. The regimental dog of the 90th was shot in the right shoulder.

BATTLEFORD, April 30.—The scouts under Col. Herchmer have discovered that the Indians who raided the settlement are encamped in force about 5 miles west of Poundmaker's reserve. They are faring sumptuously on the settlers' cattle, and are driving their horses and buckboards. Col. Otter is making preparations for early settlement of accounts with them.

QU'APPELLE, April 30.—Further examination of the ravine reveals the fact of the Fish Creek engagement being an extremely hot fight. The rebels were strongly entrenched, yet there is now no longer any doubt of their loss being terribly severe. Fifty-five good horses were found dead in the ravine, also the bodies of three Indians, who were too near our lines to permit of the Indians successfully carrying them off. The fire of the batteries has caused terrible havoc, and must have created consternation among the rebels. The scouts under Gen. Middleton are capturing rebel cattle and horses without opposition, proving that the enemy are in dread to again meet the troops in action since the fight of Friday.

BATTLEFORD, May 1.—All is tranquil here. The residents have returned to their houses and are endeavouring to restore order out of the chaos produced by the raid of the Indians. The result of the visit of the redskins was seen in the wreck of furniture, provisions, sheds and houses.

MONTREAL, May 1.—The Montreal Garrison Artillery, commanded by Lieut-Col. Oswald, have been ordered out for active service to-day and leave for the North-West on Monday. They number 350 men and officers and are well disciplined and drilled. At parade this afternoon not a man was absent. Rumour says they are for British Columbia to man the batteries there in view of the breaking out of hostilities with Russia.

May 3.—It is understood that the Northcote yesterday got off the bar on which she was stuck and is likely to have reached Clark's Crossing last night. Her arrival would enable Middleton to advance, provided that was what he was waiting for. So far as your correspondent can learn, no definite news of the Northcote's reaching Clark's Crossing or advance of troops has come through.

Riel has issued a proclamation to the Half-breeds who refuse to come into camp to do so at once or he will murder them.

STILL AT BATOCHÉ.

The rebels were still at Batoche on both sides of the river. A detachment of the 7th Fusiliers are to be stationed at Moosejaw, which is to be made a new base of supplies by trail for Clark's Crossing and Saskatoon.