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## Canadian

### Defence.

It is stated that the Dominion Government will, shortly, set about the erection of such fortifications in the harbor of St. John, as will enable the port to defend itself against attack from the sea side. The chief battery will be built this season upon the highest ground of Partridge Island, which may necessitate changing the site of the present lighthouse there. The guns are now on order and will probably be delivered before the summer is over. They will be of sufficient range and calibre to cope with men of war. The work will be carried on under the most competent supervision so as to insure its execution in the most substantial manner. The location of the proposed battery has already been approved by officers who made a special study of such questions. It is understood that General Lord Dundonald is anxious also to secure the erection of batteries to protect the harbor of Vancouver, B. C., which is in such a defenceless position today that a single hostile warship could destroy property worth millions of dollars without herself running the least risk of damage.

### Who Are Guilty.

In Victoria, B. C., two Chinamen, named Wong On and Wong Gow have been convicted of the murder of a Chinese theatre manager of the city and have been sentenced to death. According to a despatch from Rossland, B. C., some interest has been aroused there by the story of a prominent Chinaman of the place who contends that the men under sentence are not the guilty parties and that their conviction is the result of intrigue on the part of the Highbinders. This Rossland Chinaman whose name is not given but who is said to be a Christian, and who shows a certificate of membership in the Young Men's Christian Association of Victoria, is reported as declaring that the conviction of Wong On is a part of the Highbinders' attempt to punish Chinamen who accept Christianity; also that the Highbinders, to protect their own guilty members, who left the country immediately after the killing, have fastened the guilt on Wong On, who since accepting Christianity has frustrated various murders. By securing the conviction of Wong On, through the alleged intimidation of friendly witnesses, the Highbinders, according to the statement of Chinamen at Rossland, secure revenge for the old scores and provide an object lesson to Christian Chinamen, many of whom are said to be wavering in their faith as an outcome of the trial. The Chinese at Rossland who are several hundred strong are said to be thoroughly worked up on the subject and anxious that the matter shall be further investigated by the authorities before the capital sentence is executed.

### Russia and Japan

#### Compared.

Recently in the City of New York a Japanese and a Russian met on the same platform and made speeches in English, each upholding the cause of his own country in connection with the present war in the Far East. The following report of their remarks is given by the *Montreal Witness*: "Mr. Moriva, (the Japanese) contended that Russia had forced Japan to go to war by her encroachments. The national integrity, even the independence and existence of Japan, were threatened by Russia, and she had no recourse but an appeal to arms. Mr. Molinsky (the Russian) did not oppose this statement, but blamed the war and all other evils under which the people of Russia are suffering, on the party in power, consisting of the governing class and the bureaucracy. Comparing the two nations, he did not see that Japan was more civilized or superior in any way to Russia, nor was he aware that the Japanese had produced such men as Turgenief, Tolstoy, and Gorki, or possessed a literature such as these have created. If Japan had made wonderful progress in the last half century, Russia also had made giant strides in the arts of civilization at the same time. But while Japan was a united country, Russia was divided, owing to the mistaken and tyrannous policy of its rulers. In the United States and Britain the whole nation was not condemned for the bad policy of the party in power, nor should all Russia be blamed for the errors of a party. But what Mr. Masliansky found most admirable in Russia were the many noble and heroic men and women who every year sacrificed fortune, liberty and life in the cause of a free, united Russia. 'Well might he grow eloquent in declaring that no nation in the world deserved

sympathy more than Russia in its struggles for freedom. If sorrow was felt for the hundreds of brave men who went down with the 'Petropavlovsk,' should not regret follow the endless clanking chain of exiles to Siberia, all of them, jailors as well as convicts, victims of a cruel despotic system? Japan has made no such sacrifices for freedom, and it is doubtful if her people would, through a century of tears and sorrow, continue a struggle with no prospect but that of imprisonment, agony, and death before them. Mr. Masliansky concluded with the prayer that rule in Russia would go over to her noble, liberty loving children, and then Russia would be one of the greatest and best countries on earth. That these are the views largely held by the educated, non-official class in Russia there can be no doubt."

### Ice-Breakers

#### for the St.

#### Lawrence.

The Dominion Government has placed in the estimates for the coming year the sum of \$300,000 for an ice-breaking vessel to be employed on the St. Lawrence river with the purpose of lengthening the period of navigation. It is said to be the opinion of men who have given attention to the subject in the light of what has been accomplished elsewhere in the way of ice-breaking, that by this means the season of navigation on the St. Lawrence may be extended two weeks in the autumn and perhaps as much more in the spring. It is considered that such an addition to the season of navigation would be of any considerable importance to the port of Montreal, as much wheat now exported by way of Buffalo and New York would then probably go by the St. Lawrence route. Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. of Newcastle-on-Tyne are mentioned as the probable builders of the ice-breaking vessel or vessels which it is proposed to place on the St. Lawrence. They are the builders of the Ermak which was built for the Russian government to maintain winter navigation from the Baltic to Cronstadt and St. Petersburg and summer navigation in the Kara Sea in order to reach Northern Siberia. The Ermak has ten thousand horse-power and five thousand tons coal capacity, its cost was \$875,000, and it is reported to have answered very satisfactorily the purpose for which it was

### Thibet.

The trouble in Thibet appears to be growing more serious. The Young-husband Mission is practically besieged at Gyangste, and the Thibetans are bringing a larger force and heavier artillery to the attack. The British expedition is to be reinforced with half a battalion of Fusiliers and half a battalion of Naval Infantry with four ten pounder guns from India, and the Chinese and Thibetan authorities have been informed that the British Mission will advance to Lhasa unless they will negotiate at Gyangste within a given date. Replying to Lord Spencer in the House of Lords on May 17, Lord Hardwicke, under Secretary for War, said that Great Britain is now at war with Thibet, and until she had by force of arms vindicated her position he did not think the Government should be called upon to give a definite pledge as to what form of settlement would follow the conclusion of hostilities.

### Antidote for

#### Rattlesnake

#### Poison.

A Japanese physician claims to have discovered a positive antidote for the venom of rattlesnakes. It was announced at the annual banquet of the Association of American Physicians, held in Washington, D. C., on May 10, that the antidote had been discovered by Dr. Noguchi of Japan as the result of researches made by him under a grant made by the Carnegie Institution. The announcement was made by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, of Philadelphia, who read a letter from Dr. Noguchi who is now in the Serum Institution in Copenhagen where he has been engaged in his researches for several months past. From the nature of the announcement it is believed by the physicians who were present that the serum which Dr. Noguchi says he has discovered will be of great value in human therapeutics. It appears that Dr. Mitchell himself when a young man devoted a good deal of time unsuccessfully to the problem which is now said to have been solved by Dr. Noguchi. The letter to Dr. Mitchell from the Japanese

physician did not contain a great many details, but said that the serum had been obtained from the blood of goats and could probably be secured as well from horses, as in the case of serums in use at present. In Dr. Noguchi's experiments he found that guinea pigs that had received injections of rattlesnake poison up to twelve times the amount necessary to produce death and had then received injections of the anticrotalic serum experienced no evil effects from the poison. Dr. Noguchi also believes that this discovery will lead shortly to the discovery of serums for other poisons, and that it will not be long before the serums will be placed on the market particularly in regions where the rattlesnake is always a factor to be reckoned with.

### The War.

Several quite serious disasters have been sustained by Japanese battleships and cruisers during the past week or two. One cruiser is reported to have been disabled by the daring exploit of a few Russians on a steam launch, which managed to creep in near to the Japanese ship and torpedo her. Several Japanese vessels have been destroyed by mines. Two are reported to have been lost in this way while endeavoring to remove mines in Talienswan bay, and on May 15th one battleship was sunk and another seriously crippled by coming in contact with floating mines off Port Arthur. It is reported that navigation in that vicinity has become exceedingly dangerous by reason of these floating mines which appear to have broken from their moorings and are drifting about the sea. The entrance to Port Arthur appears not to have been effectually blocked after all the efforts of the Japanese to that end, since the Russians have been able to send out torpedo boats and even a cruiser. It is very difficult from all the reports received to form any definite idea of the position of the opposing forces on the Liaoting peninsula. A large body of Japanese crossed the Yalu river from Korea, other bodies have landed in Manchuria on the east and on the west side of the peninsula, and it was supposed to be the purpose of the Japanese to concentrate a large part of the forces at Liao Yang, a position on the railway south of Mukden. The rainy weather which has prevailed in the country has probably prevented the Japanese carrying out their plans as rapidly as they expected, the roads being in such condition as to make the moving of artillery difficult if not impossible. A Japanese force of 30,000 which had advanced westward from Feng Wang Cheng some sixty miles, encountered a larger force of Russians well posted and retired rapidly, though it is said in good order. There appears to have been no general engagement of these forces, but the skirmishing resulted in some loss on both sides. It is understood to be General Kurapatkin's intention to withdraw his forces northward to Mukden and perhaps to Harbin, and as the rains have had the effect of preventing a rapid concentration of the Japanese forces, it is probable that the Russian commander will be able to effect this without risking a general engagement. It is expected that the Japanese will immediately turn their attention to the reduction of Port Arthur. The Russians profess to believe the place impregnable, but the Japanese will be able to bring great forces in men and artillery to bear against it, and as it is a matter of the utmost importance to them, they will doubtless sacrifice blood and treasure freely to accomplish its reduction. It is at present writing uncertain whether the wharves, docks, and buildings at Dalny upon which the Russians have lavished millions during the past two years, have been destroyed or not. It was reported that the Russians had blown them up before evacuating the place, but this report has been contradicted. It is reported that a Japanese torpedo boat was hit by a shell from the Russian forts at Port Arthur on Friday last, with the result that one officer and twenty-five men were killed. Alluding to the recent disasters to Japanese ships from floating mines, the *London Times* correspondent on board the steamship 'Haimun' says that the Russians, realizing that they were effectively isolated at Port Arthur, "made their desperation an excuse for sowing the whole gulf of Pe Chi Li with floating blockade mines. It is reported that they sent the launches and junks to drop mines in the paths of the Japanese warships and transports. The mines drifted to the high seas and to Chinese waters, constituting the gravest danger to neutral shipping. Yesterday the 'Haimun' passed two floating mines within six miles of Wei-Hai Wei. Even if the act of a desperate garrison this must be in violation of the law of nations."