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THE RUSSIAN PEACE PARTY PREVAILED; A PROPOSAL TO END WAR HAS BEEN MADE?

A Settlement of Far East Struggle Is Imminent, Says St. Petersburg Dispatch.

St. Petersburg, March 23. — 6:05 p.m. — The ministers and supporters of the court who advocate the submission of pacific proposals to Japan, as previously set forth in these dispatches, so as to ascertain whether an honorable basis of peace is possible, believe they have carried the day, and the Associated Press hears on high authority that an actual step is imminent, if not taken already.

Japs Took Forty Ships.

Portland, March 23. — According to advices brought by the Portland and Asiatic steamship Arabia, from Yokohama, there are at present about forty blockade runners of various nationalities in Japanese ports, which have been captured attempting to enter Russian ports. The crews of the captured vessels are treated well by the Japanese, and as rapidly as possible sent to their home ports. According to blockade runners captured on the return trip from Vladivostok, the harbor there is filled with vessels loaded with provisions and coal. Provisions are said to be cheap, meat being sold for 20 kopeks (10 cents), per pound. The impression exists in Vladivostok that the Japanese intend to attack the place in the immediate future.

Russia's Internal Loan.

St. Petersburg, March 23. — The internal loan of \$100,000,000, was signed today. The price of issue is 86 and the bonds are redeemable in fifty years.

Retreat in Disorder.

Tokio, March 23. — Noon. — An official report from imperial headquarters says: "Our detachment pursuing the enemy entered Changtu on March 21 at 2:30 p.m. A large body of the enemy in disorder is retreating toward the north-east, along the line of the railway. A part of the enemy's cavalry has halted at a point, within two miles north of Changtu."

A False Report.

London, March 23, 4:50 p.m. — It is authoritatively stated that the cabinet meeting today had no connection whatever with intervention in the far eastern war.

MICHIGAN EDITORS' JAUNT

Will Visit Toronto, Montreal and the Valley of the Grand Pre.

Detroit, Mich., March 23. — The editors of the city and country papers, composing the Michigan Press Association, will meet in Detroit on June 17 next and go by rail to Toronto and thence by steamer to Montreal, where they will be entertained by the Montreal Chamber of Commerce. From Montreal they will go to Mount Washington, then to Portland, St. John and Halifax, making a walking tour of the valley of the Grand Pre. From Yarmouth the party will sail to Boston, where it will break up, each member to follow his own inclinations as to home coming.

BALFOUR OPPOSES FISCAL MOTIONS

Resolution Deprecating Duty on Imports Carried by Big Majority.

London, March 23. — A resolution introduced last night in the House of Commons by John Stirling Ainsworth (Free Trade Liberal), declaring that "in the opinion of the House, the imposition of a general duty on all manufactured goods imported from abroad, not exceeding 10 per cent on an average, and varying according to the amount of labor on these goods, would be injurious to the commercial interests of the United Kingdom," was carried by 264 to 2.

Mr. Ainsworth's resolution was seconded by Richard Frederick Cavendish (Unionist), who congratulated Premier Balfour on giving the House an opportunity to express unfettered views on fiscal propositions.

Most of the tariff reformers abstained from voting. Premier Balfour said that the motive of such resolutions was not the discussion of the question, so much as to embarrass the Government; they had had a party fight over the question of hampering the freedom of the proposed conference. In future he would urge his followers to abstain from any discussion of the fiscal question in the House of Commons.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman attacked the Government for its attitude. He asked if the question were of no moment now why it was considered a critical party question on March 8.

Lord Hugh Cecil said he believed that after the debate the country would not take the tariff reformers seriously. The electorate would not rally to those who failed to rally to their own cause. The protectionist movement, he said, was dying it had only been galvanized into life by the genius of one individual.

It is now stated that Mr. Balfour secured Joseph Chamberlain's assent to his mode of dealing with the Ainsworth motion by representing that any other course would risk the Government being defeated.

QUEBEC'S NEW CABINET

Gouin, Turgeon, McCorkhill, Alard, Ray, Weir and Archambault.

Quebec, March 23. — The provincial cabinet has been reorganized as follows: Hon. Lenoir Gouin, Prime Minister; Hon. Attorney-General, Hon. Madelard Turgeon, Minister of Lands, Forests and Fisheries; Hon. M. McCorkhill, Provincial Treasurer; Hon. Jules Alard, Minister of Colonization and Public Works; Hon. M. R. Roy, Provincial Secretary; Hon. M. Weir, Minister without portfolio; Hon. M. Archambault will be president of the legislative council. The new ministers were sworn in this morning. The Minister of Agriculture will not be appointed before tomorrow.

THE RUSH FROM EUROPE

Italians and Hungarians Pouring into U. S. by Tens of Thousands.

New York, March 23. — The spring rush of immigration has almost swamped the Government officials at Ellis Island. In the last three days 16,000 immigrants have reached this port. Reports received from abroad show that great demands for storage space are being made at nearly every port of immigrant embarkation. The steamer capacity on all of the principal steamship lines already is booked many weeks ahead, and the companies are compelled to put on extra steamers. Over 7,000 Russian Hebrews have reached here since the first of the month, but the immigration from Italy leads the list in point of numbers. In the last twenty-two days Ellis Island received 18,000 Italians. The percentage of Hungarian immigration is also showing a remarkable increase.

Five Went Over Dam.

Charleroi, Pa., March 23. — During a heavy fog today, Wm. Higgins, a ferryman, attempted to row five men across the Monongahela River in a skiff. When in midstream the ferryman lost his way and the boat with its occupants was carried over the dam. Several hours later the boat was found over a mile below the dam, but none of the bodies have been recovered. The fate of the five passengers have not yet been ascertained.

A Gala Day at Lisbon For Queen Alexandra

Lisbon, March 23. — Queen Alexandra of Great Britain yesterday was given a hearty welcome to Portugal. The harbor was crowded with gaily decorated steamers and yachts, and the British royal yacht ascended the river amid volleys of salutes. Two great golden galleys, pulled by 80 boatmen in mediaeval costumes of scarlet and gold, took the royal yacht to the quay. The suite and ministers to meet the royal guest. A beautiful pavilion had been erected on the quay for the royal formalities. After the queen dowager of Portugal had met Queen Alexandra at the steps of the quay, an imposing procession of state carriages and officials took the guest and her suite to the palace amid rousing cheers. The route of the procession was decorated with flags and streamers, and many thousands of people lined the route. The British royal yacht was distributed to be thrown to Queen Alexandra as the procession passed, while hundreds of pigeons with ribbons of British colors were released. The queen and her suite were mingled with the shower of flowers. It transpires that the storm which compelled the British royal yacht to put in at Vigo was so violent as to cause the royal party the greatest anxiety and discomfort. Princess Victoria, owing to weakness consequent upon her recent illness, was completely unwell. The heavy seas damaged the yacht's rigging. Nobody aboard slept from Monday till Tuesday morning. Princess Victoria has now recovered.

NOTORIOUS GANG GETS ITS DESERTS

French Court Punishes Thieves Guilty of World-Wide Villainies.

Amiens, March 23. — The court of assizes after a fortnight's trial, has sentenced 15 among the notorious gang of 26 malefactors who operated in France and in foreign countries under the leadership of Marius Jacob to terms of imprisonment ranging from life-long to hard labor for the ring leader, to five years. The others were acquitted.

For a number of years a gang of outlaws, at the head of which was Marius Jacob, a very young man, had been committing robberies in nearly every city of the world. In foreign countries murders occasionally resulted from their operations. Jacob, whose headquarters were in Paris, directed the villainies with the utmost system, keeping also a full record of the spoils and adjudicating the division of the proceeds among his men. The arrest of the 26 was trial has just closed, followed upon the capture of one of their number, who disclosed the facts of the organization, as well as the names and whereabouts of his associates. Several, however, contrived to escape. Jacob, when arrested, stammered imbecility, but on the exposure of the pretense assumed an attitude of defiance and bravado, in which he has imitated by the other members of the gang. In the passage of the vans through the streets of Amiens between prison and the court the criminals shouted anarchistic sentences and in other ways so angered the residents that on several occasions it seemed as though the vans would be mobbed.

To Lead Bitley Teams.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, March 23. — It has been officially announced that Lieut. Hesselberg, Halifax, has been appointed commandant, and Major Davidson, of the Eighth Royal Rifles, Montreal, adjutant, of the Bitley teams.

Kaiser Sails Away.

Cuxhaven, Germany, March 23. — Emperor William started today on his Mediterranean cruise on board the steamer Hamburg, placed at his disposal by the Hamburg-American Line. The Hamburg was escorted by the armored cruiser Prinz Friedrich Karl.

A SPOTTED FEVER CASE

Dr. Hodggets Learns of an Outbreak in a Western Town.

Toronto, March 23. — Word was received by Dr. Hodggets, secretary of the provincial board of health, this morning, that a case of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, or spotted fever, has been discovered in a western town. The disease usually follows unsanitary conditions, but in this instance came after an attack of pneumonia. This disease is infectious, but not contagious.

THE SPIRIT OF RUSSIA

George Meredith Contributes Striking Poem on Czar's Empire.

London, March 23. — George Meredith contributes to the Times a poem entitled "The Crisis," beginning: "Spirit of Russia, now has come. The day when thou canst not be dumb. After eloquently painting the perils surrounding the empire, the poet thus addresses the spirit of Russia:

"Those who bind Thy limbs and ironcage thy mind, Take thee for quaking flesh, misdo, That thou art of the rubble rot, Which will flee with whimping lip. From reckless gun and brutal whip. But he who has at heart the deeds Of thy heroic offspring, reads In them a soul not given to shrink. From peril on the abyss brink."

The poem concludes: "Give to thy sons a breathing breast And him resembling in his sight, Say to thy land, 'There be light.'"

The Treasure Seekers.

Lima, Peru, March 23. — The Peruvian transport Chalaco proceeded to Panama yesterday, taking the officers and crew of the British yacht Veronique, which was engaged in the treasure-seeking expedition to the island of San Juan. Earl Fitzwilliam, which resulted in disappointment. The Veronique has been purchased by Peru for \$150,000 and will be used as a coastguard vessel.

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WHITNEY HAS A CAUCUS

Preston, North Lanark, Elected Chief Whip, and Nassie Assistant.

Toronto, March 23. — At a caucus of the Government members this morning, Mr. F. Preston, of North Lanark, was elected chief whip, and Mr. A. Massie, of Muskoka, assistant whip. The Premier addressed his supporters and there was a general discussion on the state of the session. The debate on the address will commence in the House this afternoon, and it is now said that it is likely to last for some time. A number of members on the Government side who have given notice of their desire to speak.

BLAIR MYSTERY SOLVED?

Ex-Minister Was to Head Lake of Woods Company, but Failed.

Montreal, March 23. — It is currently reported here that the late Mr. Blair was to head the Lake of Woods Milling Company, which resulted in the buying out of the Russell party, commenced shortly after the resignation of Hon. Mr. Blair from the chairmanship of the railway commission. At this time Mr. Robert Meighen was on the point of retiring from the presidency, but eventually decided to stay. This decision culminated in the negotiations to retire the Russell control. It was currently reported at the time that Mr. Russell wanted to appoint Mr. Blair to a high and lucrative position in the company, but was blocked.

CANADIANS GET DISGUSTED

Sir Gifford Molesworth Speaks of British Attitude.

London, March 23. — Sir Gifford Molesworth, speaking at the annual dinner of the Institute of Civil Engineers, said that Canadians get disgusted at Great Britain's churlish and contemptuous reception of their advances. There was very great danger that Canada might be driven to reciprocity with the United States, a step which would eventually end in the absorption of Canada in the United States. Sir Gifford said that he was not at all alarmed by the attitude of the British Government, but he believed it to be impossible to maintain the colonies under our present loose and indefinite relations.

MIDDLESEX RAILWAY CO.

Bill to Incorporate Line From Falls to London Postponed.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, March 23. — The bill to incorporate the Middlesex Railway Company, of which Mr. Calvert had charge, was postponed until Tuesday next. The mayor of St. Catharines wanted time to lay it before the city council. This is for a railway from the Niagara River to a point near the city of London.

Minister to Denmark. London, March 23. — Alan Johnston has been gazetted British minister at Copenhagen in succession to Sir Edward Gaschen, transferred to Vienna.

COMPANIES VS. RAILROADS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Dominion Millers' Association and Others Protest Against Demurrage, Claiming Not Equitably Applied.

Ottawa, March 23. — At the railway commission tomorrow the complaint of the Dominion millers and others against the railway companies for demurrage was heard.

The interests represented were Mr. C. B. Watts, Toronto, for the Dominion Millers' Association, and Mr. J. R. Marlow, for the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, represented by Thos. Patterson and W. J. Atchison, Hamilton.

Mr. Cowan raised the point that the only formal notice given was for the Dominion Millers' Association, and he therefore objected to the case proceeding, but in view of the fact that a number had come a long distance to attend the commission he decided to go on, and Mr. Marlow was heard.

NEW RAILROAD THROUGH BRANT

Line Will Terminate at a Point Near Woodstock—Is Capitalized at \$500,000.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, March 23. — The railway committee today took up the Brantford and Woodstock Railway Company's bill. The incorporators are from the cities of Woodstock and Brantford. The company ask power to construct and operate a railway from Brantford, through the townships of Brant, Burford, East Oxford and Blandford to a point near the city of Woodstock. It is intended to run a steam railway. The capital stock was placed at \$500,000, and the head office is to be in Brantford. The length of road will be about 23 miles. The company wanted the bill bound down to be a steam railway, because he represented a company that had projected an electric road along the same route and he did not want this one to interfere with his. "It is a mere matter of business with us."

The committee did not tie the road down to the use of steam. The bill was reported.

A Nervous Shareholder

London, March 23. — At the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of England today a dividend of 4½ per cent was declared. The net profits for the six months ending Feb. 28 were \$2,021,445. A nervous shareholder drew attention to the railroad tunneling all around the bank and in close proximity to the building. He said he did not want this one to interfere with his. "It is a mere matter of business with us."

Connaught at Madrid.

Madrid, March 23. — Field Marshal the Duke of Connaught arrived here today to visit King Alfonso. The King with all his ministers, the civil and military authorities and the diplomatic corps, welcomed the duke on his arrival at the railroad station.

The Japanese at Mukden Trapped 20,000 Russians

London, March 23. — The correspondent at Tokio of the Daily Telegraph says: "The struggle was not decided for many hours. Line after line of Japanese infantry went down. Finally, at 11 p.m., the Russians broke and fled toward the northern gate. They suffered enormous losses outside, however, being caught on all sides like rats in a trap."

Together, 26,000 prisoners were captured at the southern and 5,000 at the western gate."

THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow—Local Showers. London, Thursday, March 23. Sun rises, 6:17 a.m. Moon rises, 9:50 p.m. Sun sets, 6:32 p.m. Moon sets, 7:59 a.m. The weather has been showery in Manitoba and the greater part of the Northwest Territories. Elsewhere fair. Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 42-48; Edmonton, 32-50; Calgary, 32-48; Qu'Appelle, 32-42; Winnipeg, 32-48; Port Arthur, 32-38; Pelly Sound, 16-42; Toronto, 32-38; Ottawa, 18-38; Montreal, 29-38; Quebec, 18-32; St. John, 28-38; Halifax, 26-34.

FORECAST.

Thursday, March 23—A.m. East and south winds, fair, with light rain; local showers during the night and on Friday.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather. Calgary, 32, 18, Fair. Winnipeg, 32, 18, Rain. Pelly Sound, 34, 24, Cloudy. Toronto, 34, 24, Cloudy. Ottawa, 34, 24, Cloudy. Montreal, 32, 22, Fair. Quebec, 32, 22, Fair. Father Point, 32, 22, Fair.

The weather has been showery in Manitoba and a portion of the Territories. Elsewhere fair and for the most part quite mild.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at local observatories for the 24 hours ended 8 p.m. Wednesday were: Highest, 33°; lowest, 26.5° above.

FRENCH VS. GREEKS

Outbreak on the Island of Crete in Which Eight Were Killed.

Marseilles, March 23. — The Messageries Maritimes steamer Yangtze, which arrived here today, reports that when she touched at Candia, Island of Crete, recently, a serious outbreak occurred between 15 French soldiers and 30 Greek marines. The fight lasted 1 hour, and six Greeks and two Frenchmen were killed. An investigation is in progress, but no political significance is attached to the affray.

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A BUNGLED EXECUTION

Noose Pulled Away and Murderer Is Bound and Dropped Again.

Pittsburg, March 23. — Two men were hanged here today and the first unsuccessful hanging was recorded in Allegheny County. Reno Dardaia went to the scaffold first and his neck was broken. William J. Byers followed him, and when the trap was sprung the loop of the noose pulled away, precipitating him to the ground. For about one minute he staggered on the scaffold, and the trap sprung. Sheriff Dickson caught him and removing the noose and black cap, carried him into the jail. He was badly hurt as the result of the fall. The rope was again adjusted, and Byers, pale and trembling, was again placed on the scaffold, and the trap sprung. This time there was no mishap and death resulted from strangulation.

Her Maiden Voyage.

Liverpool, March 23. — The Allan Line turbine steamer Victorian was hidden an enthusiastic farewell when she started on her maiden voyage to Montreal today. Thousands of persons cheered her departure. The Victorian carries about 1,500 passengers, including a number of engineering experts.

Autonomy Debate Is On; Prolonged Fight Expected

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Statement Re School Clause.

Clear and Concise Exposition of Government's Position.

Leader of Opposition Takes the View That the Clause Is Unconstitutional.

Ottawa, March 22. — The debate on the Northwest autonomy bill was opened in the House today, and as was expected, the chamber was crowded to the limit, due, of course, to the discussion and differences over the educational clause of the measure.

The Premier was in splendid debating and oratorical trim, and made his statement in reference to the proposed amendments in his customary clear and concise fashion.

Mr. Borden at last showed his hand, taking the ground that the separate school clauses were unconstitutional. He concluded by moving an amendment to the motion for the second reading in which he calls for complete provincial autonomy for the new provinces, including untrammelled power to make laws in relation to education. It is upon this that the members will be asked to record their votes at the conclusion of the debate which is likely to last for a fortnight.

Before the debate proper commenced, some 343 petitions were submitted for and against the clause.

It was not expected that Sir Wilfrid would speak at great length, having

Proposed Amendment.

The proposed amendment is as follows: Section 93 of the B. N. A. Act, 1867, shall apply to the said Province, with a substitution for sub-section 1 of said section 93 of the following sub-section:

1. Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to separate schools which any class of persons have at the date of the passing of this act, under the terms of chapters 29 and 39 of the ordinances of the Northwest Territories, passed in the year 1901.

2. In the appropriation by the Legislature or distribution by the Government of the Province of any money for the support of schools organized and carried on in accordance with said chapter 29 or any act passed in amendment thereof or in substitution thereof, there shall be no discrimination against schools of any class described in the said chapter 29.

3. Where the expression "by law" is employed in sub-section 3 of the said section 93, it shall be held to mean the law as set out in the said chapters 29 and 39, and where the expression "the union" is employed in said sub-section 3 it shall be held to mean the date at which this act comes into force.

dealt so amply with the subject when introducing the bill. This was more than recessed, the debate continuing for 35 minutes. The burden of his argument was that clause 16 of the bill was incorporated in it in accordance with the spirit of the constitution. He denied that there was any alteration in his position on these questions. He was as well as the provincial rights as he ever was, and quoted from his own utterances twelve years ago to show this to be the case.

He said that the definition of provincial rights was to be found in the constitution and the history of the country. He said that he took his stand. Speaking for the party he said that the ground upon which they stood in the present case was that wherever a system of separate schools exists, that system comes into force, and is constitutionally entitled to the guarantees which are embodied in section 93 of the British North America act, and when they introduced section 16 as it is in the bill they had no other intention than to give to the rights and privileges to which they were entitled under the constitution, and which they have today. With respect to the changes effected in that clause, he said they were made to make it clearer if possible that all that was contemplated was to continue the existing educational conditions in the west. He impressed on the House that Confederation had only been possible by mutual concessions and compromise, and conceded and yielded to achieve one great result, the unity and peace of their common country. He asked them to apply the principles of the constitution in a broad and generous spirit.

Sir Wilfrid's Statement.

The remarks of the leader of the Opposition on the first reading debate, Sir Wilfrid said, were devoted to two subjects of ownership of the land and the school question. Mr. Borden's position was that the land should go to the provinces and be owned and managed by them. On the school question he was reserved; he did not announce any policy, but very wisely said that, in his judgment, the subject was one that ought to be approached with calmness and moderation. But, notwithstanding this advice, the Conservative press offered a very violent opposition to the school clause, sparing no effort to inflame the public mind upon a very delicate subject. As on many an occasion when Parliament had to face and solve a simple question, it was complicated and rendered difficult by sudden outbursts of passion and prejudice. The school clause question; in 1880, on the Jesuits' estates debate, and again in 1886, on the Manitoba school question, several

parts of the country were aroused to a high pitch of excitement; and since his conduct on the present occasion had been assailed, he would say that on all these occasions he had endeavored, and successfully, so far as he knew, to act on the true principle of the constitution under which we live. In 1875, as it was established that the minority in New Brunswick had no separate schools at the union, he had supported Mr. Mackenzie in refusing federal interference upon the complaint of the Roman Catholic minority. In 1886 he supported Sir John Macdonald in refusing to disallow the Jesuits' estates act. In 1886 he opposed the Government of Sir Mackenzie Bowell when it endeavored to force upon the Province of Manitoba a system of schools which, according to high judicial authority, the Province of Manitoba had rejected within the scope of its legitimate authority. And now again, in 1905, he stood upon the rock of the constitution when the House would should give to the minority in the new provinces the same rights and privileges that are given to the minorities in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Yet this very proper stand was being opposed throughout the country in the sacred name of provincial rights, although the House would looked the fact that in the very letter of the constitution on which they rely, there is an abbreviation of provincial rights whereby there exists in any province a system of separate schools. Section 93 of the British North America act declared that the Legislature of each province may exclusively make laws in relation to education, and if the act had stopped there, and there were no qualifying words, such legislation as we have before us would never have been introduced. But the provision was added that "nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law in the Province at the union." Yet this plain fact was being ignored.

Referring to Mr. Northrup's quotation of a speech in 1882, in which he declared himself a firm believer in provincial rights, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that later on in the same speech he had qualified that, by saying that "in the matter of education, provincial rights were not supreme. This was the view he still held. And that being admitted, we were still told that it does not apply to the present case, because territories are not provinces. "Now, in the name of common sense," said Sir Wilfrid, "what does it matter so far as law and equity are concerned, whether they are territories or provinces? If, by the act of 1875, we gave them an established system of schools, is not that system due to them as if they had been created into provinces? If they have acquired rights thereby, are not those rights sacred as if they had been created into provinces? The argument is being put forward in newspapers and in speeches that Parliament is not bound by the fact that the Parliament of 1904 is now bound by the Parliament of 1875. Parliament is supreme, indeed, and may go even to the length of dissolving the moral laws which bind all governments and all men, just as it is open to any man to break his word, to trample under foot his pledged troth, and then we have a double opportunity to signalize ourselves, because not only may we take away from the minority the system of separate schools which they have had for years, but we may strike out that more far-reaching legislation of provincial rights by which Parliament in 1881 exempted from municipal taxation forever the property of the churches and the schools of the new provinces power to levy taxation upon the C. P. R. and I ask, then, that if we respect the law, we should respect the one case, why should we not respect our engagements in the other?"

Sir Wilfrid Laurier contended that no better testimony in the history of the Dominion could be found than in the letter of Mr. Haultain, in which he said the territories were