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WELLINGTON Lodge, No. 46, A. F. & A. M., G. R. C., meets on the first Monday of every month, in the Masonic Hall, Fifth St., at 7.30 p.m. Visiting brethren heartily welcomed.

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HOPE IS IN ASCENDANT

Affirmed With Strong Confidence That Russia Will Yield.

Prepared in the interests of Peace to concede Practically All the Claims in the Last Japanese Note—Reply Delayed to Give Proper Diplomatic Expression to Her Decision—Rioting at Seoul.

London, Jan. 25.—At last it is possible to affirm with strong confidence that the situation in the Far East is distinctly hopeful. The basis for this welcome announcement is a fact which should be decisive, namely, that Japan has the best reasons for believing that Russia is prepared in the interests of peace to concede practically all the claims in the last Japanese note, and is delaying her reply only in order to find the best means of giving a proper diplomatic expression of her decision.

It is impossible to be more definite about the sources of information. The issue of peace or war has rested solely with Russia, for Japan was not indulging in diplomatic bargaining but asked her irreducible minimum of demands at the first.

No Reply Yet Received.

Tokio, Jan. 25.—No reply has yet been received from St. Petersburg.

Rioting at Seoul.

Seoul, Jan. 25.—An accident yesterday on the electric street railway here, which resulted in the killing of a Korean led to rioting on the part of the populace. The marine guard at the American legation, however, without having recourse to their fire arms, succeeded in preventing the trouble from assuming serious proportions.

Still Japan Seems to Mean War.

London, Jan. 25.—A despatch to The Central News from Tokio, says: "An extraordinary issue of 'The Gazette' has been published, containing an Imperial ordinance, approving the various coast defence regulations and forbidding, under penalties, the navigation of private vessels; fighting within specified areas, or the carrying out of marine work which might be inimical to Japanese naval interest."

The decree is regarded as being highly significant.

"The Kokumin Shimbun, in a warlike editorial, declares that the arrival or non-arrival of Russia's reply does not effect the situation, and says: 'Every hope of securing the legitimate demands of Japan diplomatically has been abandoned, and the Government, therefore, is compelled to take such freedom of action as will ensure perpetual peace in the Far East.'"

Alexieff Has Angina Pectoris.

London, Jan. 25.—The Chee Foo correspondent of The Daily Mail cables that an engagement has occurred on the Manchurian Railroad between Russian troops and Chinese marauders, in which three Russians were killed. Troops are purging into Port Arthur from the north and the entire garrison has been employed in manoeuvres.

Viceroy Alexieff is suffering from angina pectoris and was unable to attend the military conference yesterday.

WILL OPPOSE BRITISH.

Col. Younghusband Offered Favorable Terms By Tibetan General to Retire.

Chumbi, British India, Jan. 25.—Col. Younghusband, the Commander of the British expedition to Tibet, had a friendly interview with a general from Lhasa and a number of Lamas, who came out to meet the British mission. The general offered favorable terms for Col. Younghusband to retire, and on his refusal, indicated that the British advance would be opposed.

Several Whites Murdered.

London, Jan. 25.—The Foreign Office has received news of the massacre of a British expedition under the auspices of the East Africa syndicate by Tuhkhan tribesmen in the neighborhood of Rudolf Lake, East Africa. Several white men were murdered, but no details of the occurrence have been received.

Toronto Corruption Scandal.

Toronto, Jan. 25.—The first formal trial in the municipal election scandal will commence before Magistrate Denison this morning. Crown Attorney Curry thinks five minutes will suffice to dispose of the technical objection to the jurisdiction of the court raised by Mr. DuVernet, counsel for Samuel Thompson. Mr. Curry said he had some 28 witnesses subpoenaed to appear in this case.

Col. Lynch Released.

London, Jan. 25.—The Daily Telegraph this morning says it understands that Col. Arthur Lynch, who commanded the Irish brigade against the British forces during the war in South Africa, and who was afterwards convicted of treason and sentenced to imprisonment for life, was liberated yesterday morning "on license." Lynch has not received the royal pardon.

Portrait to Adorn Varsity Wall.

Toronto, Jan. 25.—The literary of Toronto assembled at the University Library on Saturday afternoon to witness the unveiling of a handsome portrait in oils of Prof. Goldwin Smith. Prof. Clark of Trinity eulogized Prof. Goldwin Smith and also the donor of the portrait, John Ross Robertson. Prof. Smith made a modestly characteristic reply.

Against Peter's Power.

Vienna, Jan. 25.—Folgrade advises report that Servians and Montenegrins living abroad are engaged in a vigorous agitation against the Karagorjevitich dynasty, and have even planned a conspiracy against King Peter.



Miss Hapgood tells how she escaped an awful operation by using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I suffered for four years with what the doctors called Salpingitis (inflammation of the fallopian tubes and ovaries), which is a most distressing and painful ailment, affecting all the surrounding parts, undermining the constitution, and sapping the life forces. If you had seen me a year ago, before I began taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and had noticed the sunken eyes, sallow complexion, and general emaciated condition, and compared that person with me as I am today, robust, hearty, and well, you would not wonder that I feel thankful to you and your wonderful medicine, which restored me to new life and health in five months, and saved me from an awful operation."—Miss IRENE HAPGOOD, 1023 Sandwich St. Windsor, Ont.—\$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

Ovaritis or inflammation of the ovaries or fallopian tubes which adjoin the ovaries may result from sudden stopping of the monthly flow, from inflammation of the womb, and many other causes. The slightest indication of trouble with the ovaries, indicated by dull throbbing pain in the side, accompanied by heat and shooting pains, should claim your instant attention. It will not cure itself, and a hospital operation, with all its terrors, may easily result from neglect.

Women Forced Into Boats.

Victoria, B.C., Jan. 25.—John Davis, a passenger of the Clallam, gave evidence at the coroner's inquest on Saturday that many women wished to remain by the Clallam and protested against being put in the boats; but were forced to go. The captain had told passengers who went to him when the tug Holyoke came and requested to be put on board, that he would put them on the tug as soon as there was danger. He told them the steamer would live for three hours, but she only lived twenty minutes.

North Bruce Is Sternbound.

Tara, Jan. 25.—On account of the storm, no trains passed since Thursday to Sunday, and no mails or daily papers received since Wednesday. A few daily papers were brought in by stage Sunday night from Owen Sound and brought Klondike prices. The Conservative convention advertised to be held on Tuesday, the 26th inst., has been cancelled. It has been the worst blockade experienced for years in North Bruce, and teaming lumber business in general is at a standstill.

C.P.R. Liable to Chinese Government.

Victoria, B.C., Jan. 25.—A decision has been given in favor of the Chinese Government against the C.P.R. steamer Empress of India on account of the collision with the Chinese man-of-war Huang Tai in August last, when the Chinese commander and a number of his crew were drowned. The Empress being the overtaking steamer, was held blameable, and the assessors will assess the damage due the Chinese Government.



The Start

In married life is generally made on an equal footing of health in man and wife. But how soon, in many cases, the wife loses the start and fades in face and fails in flesh, while her husband grows even more rugged and robust. There is one chief cause for this wifely failure and that is, the failure of the womanly health. When there is irregularity or an unhealthy drain, inflammation, ulceration or female weakness, the general health is soon impaired.

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The Common Sense Medical Adviser, in paper covers, is sent free on receipt of 31 one-cent stamps to pay expense of customs and mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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GAME OF RUSSIA

A Very Interesting Situation in the Far East Explained—Some Light on the Oriental Problem.

Russia is exercising a virtual protectorate over Manchuria. She has built and owns the great railroad lines, crossing the country from west to east, and from north to south. She guards these lines with regiments of Cossacks. She occupies by military force all the chief cities, including Niu Chwang, the most important port. She holds under lease from China, the other two ports, Daini (Talien-wan) and Port Arthur. She has obtained for her citizens land holdings and mining rights which secure to them by far the greater part of the industries of the country.

Time after time Russia has pledged herself to restore Manchuria to China and to withdraw her troops, saving only the necessary "railway guards." She has even fixed the time for evacuation. Her pledges have all been broken. This is the situation out of which grows the danger of war between Japan and Russia to-day.

It is a deeply interesting story—that of Manchuria in the hands of the Russians, even apart from the issue drawn because of it. It is a story in which the Manchurians cut no figure at all, in which China has little more to do than a puppet pulled by wires, in which Russia is the great star actor, and in which Japan, England, and the United States, in that order of prominence, appear as the opponents of Russia's schemes.

The story really begins only with the middle of the last century. For almost 200 years prior to 1860 Russia had respected an old treaty with China, and concerned herself little with Manchuria. In that year she annexed her maritime provinces which is east of the northern part of Manchuria, and thus secured the port of Vladivostok, on the Pacific. Even after that, however, she was seemingly much more interested in keeping open the old caravan route to Peking over the Gobi desert, than in establishing trade by way of Manchuria. But by the time of the treaty of St. Petersburg in 1881, she had come to a full realization of the possibilities of China and to a knowledge of the utter inadequacy of the caravan route either for trade or for troops. She then secured the right to navigate the rivers of Manchuria and other valuable privileges. Between 1881 and 1895 Russia established colonies in the Manchurian cities, sent in bodies of troops to protect them, used her right of navigation so vigorously that she even excluded Chinese ships entirely, and, more important than all, she thoroughly surveyed the Manchurian provinces, gaining just the kind of knowledge she needed for military purposes.

It was in 1891 that Czar Alexander III. decreed by Imperial rescript the construction of the Siberian railroad. Vladivostok was to be the Pacific terminus, and the route was to be all Russian, making therefore a great northward curve to avoid Manchurian territory. Russia quickly discovered, however, that it would be very much better and more economical for her to send the road straight across Manchuria. A mere railroad concession from China would not serve her purpose, for she could not hope to operate a road successfully without the right to use troops to protect it.

Her chance to get this right with the least possible trouble came after the war between China and Japan. Japan, having won a complete victory had secured from China, as one of the fruits of the cession of the Liao-Tung peninsula, which forms the southern projection of Manchuria into the Yellow sea. Russia, with the support of France and Germany, protested against this cession and Japan had to disgorge. Then Russia turned to China and said in substance: "Behold, I am your great friend. I did this all for love of you."

China was naturally grateful, and Russia's reward was a secret agreement, known as the Cassini convention, the exact terms of which have not even yet been published. It was in substance an arrangement by which China was to give Russia preferences as against other powers, while Russia was to defend China against the world. This was followed by the Manchurian Railway agreement, in form an agreement between China and the Russo-Chinese Bank, but actually between China and the Russian Government.

The agreement not only permitted Russia to build the road, from west to east across Manchuria, but it allowed her to guard it with such troops as she deemed necessary against brigands and other marauders, and it gave Russian goods brought into China by railroad a preference of 50 per cent. in duties as against those entered by foreign nations at seaports. With these privileges stretched to suit her needs, Russia was secure of practical control of all Northern Manchuria at the least.

More than this, however, was now in her mind. Vladivostok had proved an unsatisfactory harbor, because it was ice-bound a good part of the year. Port Arthur, at the southern point of the Liao-Tung peninsula, from which Japan had been dispossessed, could be kept open all the year round. Again Russia watched for an excuse to serve her purpose. The excuse came quickly, for in November, 1897, Germany seized the port of Kiao-Chau in recompense for the murder of two missionaries, and it was perfectly clear that Russia must have some "compensating advantages." A month later a Russian fleet sailed into the harbor of Port Arthur, and the Russian flag was hoisted on the shore. In March, 1898, Russia formally leased Port Arthur, together with a neighboring place called Talien-wan, where she has built the city of Daini, from China for a term of twenty-five years, with the privilege of renewal. At the same time she secured the right to build a railroad from these ports to Harbin, a great new Russian city on her trans-Manchurian line. Her action did not pass without challenge, and Great Britain was not satisfied until she had secured

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ed from Russia an explicit promise to keep the ports of Port Arthur and Talien-wan open to the commerce of the world.

Here matters rested until the Boxer uprising, during which Russia overran Manchuria with armies which she has never yet withdrawn. From that time until her final failure, last October, Russia was ceaselessly negotiating with China for rights over Manchuria, which would have amounted to nothing less than an official recognition of the Russian protectorate that already virtually existed. First she made an agreement with the Tartar general, Tseng, allowing her to install a Russian "political resident." Then she tried to secure a confirmation of this agreement from China, along with a grant of exclusive privileges for mining and land holding—in effect, for all industry. England, Japan and other powers blocked her effort, and the powerful viceroys of the southern provinces of China also exerted an unfavorable influence. In the fall of 1901 Russia again tried to secure such an agreement, and again she failed.

Finally, in April, 1902, a Russo-Chinese agreement was at last signed, but it was not at all what Russia desired. Russia was to evacuate Manchuria entirely, and turn it over to the Chinese civil administration by October of last year, and no mention was made of the special privileges she was seeking.

The negotiations of last year, stretching from April to October, were in their nature a demand by Russia for these same old exclusive privileges as yet unobtainable, and when Russia again found that she could not get them she declared her existing agreement "lapsed." She "stood pat" in Manchuria, and in effect "dared" the world to come and put her out.

Japan will not allow this status to continue. Therefore the negotiations of the fall and winter. Therefore, the impending war.

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