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**SERIOUS FIRE IN EAST LONDON DOES
DAMAGE TO THE EXTENT OF \$30,000****Car Barns of the Street Railway Company Almost Completely Destroyed—
Nothing Left of Welford's Broom Factory.****FIREMEN GREATLY HANDICAPPED IN THEIR WORK OWING TO POOR PRESSURE****High Wind Threatened the District to the North and West of the Burning Buildings—Bucket
Brigades Do Good Work on Private Houses and Business Places—Several
Families Were Driven From Their Homes.**

Street Railway barns.....\$25,000
Welford Bros.....4,000
Mr. James Legg.....700
Other minor losses.....300

Total Losses.....\$30,000

By a fierce fire which raged from 10:45 a.m. until 1 o'clock this afternoon the barns of the street railway company, and the car and broom factory of Welford Bros. in East London were practically gutted, and the blaze was only prevented from being more disastrous by the timely work of the fire department. A strong west wind rendered the checking of the flames almost impossible for a time and had it not abated to a great extent a good portion of the business section might have been wiped out. As it was the fire put a street railway in a nasty predicament for a time, as the barns are useless. The broom factory lost the greater part of its machinery, and all of its stock. Fortunately the insurance on the damaged buildings was enough to cover the loss.

The street railway's loss cannot be closely estimated. Their barns could be placed approximately at a value of \$25,000, and of this only a small portion fronting on Lyle street remains. The equipment—such as motors and the

out to the Dundas street front, where the fire spread to the street front (times), belongs to Mr. James Legg. The number of the house is 897. Mr. Legg also owns the brick block at the corner of Lyle and over all his property at this place is his fire insurance. It is, therefore, likely that his loss will be fully covered by insurance.

What that will amount to is difficult to say. While the furniture in the house was mostly removed to a place of safety across the road, so much of it was broken that it will be of no further use. As for the house, the damage is due a great deal to water. The roof caught fire and was damaged in that manner. A cook shed at the back was burned down, together with the barn and chicken coops. The barn contained two valuable counters and other fixtures that will run the loss up considerably. With the damage to the roof and the damage to the walls by water penetrating every part, the total loss will probably be \$700 or \$800. Only the hard work of the firemen succeeded in saving the building, while the will of the little cottage at the side of the furniture is due the thanks of the residents of that place. Some of the people, including the women, had their faces scorched by the heat.

On the east side of the Dundas street front of the Street Railway Company's car barns, which were backed on to Dundas street. The men who rescued them were none too soon, however, as



Barns fronting on Dundas Street when the fire was at its worst and other buildings in the neighborhood were in great danger.

like—was almost completely destroyed, the cars alone being saved. Quite a quantity of material used in the repairing of cars was being hauled out of the floor of the barns, and much of it fell through into the lower floor.

Pandemonium reigned in the threatened district for several hours, and people rushed everywhere hauling out of the houses articles of furniture and all manner of household goods. Very little notice had been taken of the blaze at first. Quite a number of people were in the vicinity, and the first intimation they had that a fire was in progress was received when smoke commenced to issue from the rear of the car barns. Many who noticed it concluded that some one had started a bon-fire. At Welford's factory, however, which is on Glebe street, and runs back to the east side of the car barns, the situation was serious. In the rear of the shop was a room where sulphur was stored. It was used in a solution, into which the brooms were dipped, prior to being put on the market.

There were several pounds of this in a box and from some reason or other, as yet undiscovered, the sulphur commenced to blaze. The employees noticed the smoke, and, after a futile attempt to smother the blaze with his apron, he ran to the phone and sent in an alarm. By this time the blaze was assuming dangerous proportions, but it was thought that a chemical extinguisher would have settled matters. But there was much loose straw about the place, and the building itself was very dry, so that by the time the men from No. 2 station arrived, the firemen saw that they had a serious battle to cope with. This was about 10:50, and with admirable speed a line was attached to the hydrant at the corner of Glebe and King streets. The line was carried into the blazing structure, and although the smoke was extremely dense, the little band from No. 2 struggled bravely. The wind was very strong, and blowing almost directly east. Gradually, however, it shifted to the north and spurs of flames commenced to lick the roofs of the car barns. The trouble here seemed to be that there was no hose on Lyle street at that time and the water from the east tended to drive the flames toward the street railway's property. The roof of the north barn caught first and then the old stable, which has been used as a repair shop, commenced to smoke. The flames had made great headway in

times, but it was kept damp by streams from garden hose. The cottagers did not seem to realize their own danger until an hour after the fire had started. The wind was first blowing to the northwest, carrying the flames directly to Mr. Legg's. After the fire had spread to the Dundas street doors of the car barns, the wind began to change to the northeast, and the sparks flew in the way of the little cottage at the side of the barns. Time and time again the roofs caught fire, but ladders were placed on them, and they were kept saturated with water.

In the meantime the occupants got out their goods. Nearest to the blazing car barns was the house of James Fitzgerald. This and the house next door, occupied by a family by the name of Cole, are owned by a farmer named Thomas Dwyer, who will sustain a small loss by damage to the roofs by fire, and to the walls of at least one of the houses by water. The Fitzgeralds managed to get out all their belongings and place them temporarily on the lawn of the Home for Incubators. They were very thankful that the damage to their furniture was as small as it was, because they carried no insurance.

PRESSURE WAS WEAK**Firemen Were Thus Greatly Handicapped in Their Work.**

The greatest argument for improved water pressure which has been furnished by the fire department is that the damage to their furniture was as small as it was, because they carried no insurance. It was apparent to all that good fire-fighters and first-class apparatus are of no use to the city unless there is plenty of water, and there certainly was no water to speak of today. When the steamers got to work, it appeared as though it was sucking the water main on Dundas street dry, and the pressure from the hydrants was greatly reduced. After 12 o'clock the pressure was increased somewhat, the steam pumps being turned on at Springfield. After this the firemen made more headway.

Watching the fire were many insurance agents, and they were loud in their condemnation of the pressure.

"The people of London want cheap insurance," said one agent, "but they'll

MAY THINK IT A BLUFF**Sultan Will Give in When U. S. Ships Appear.**

Constantinople, Monday, Aug. 8.—The American legation has not yet received a reply from the Porte regarding the demands upon the Turkish Government for the same favored treatment in the matter of school, hospitals and charitable institutions as is accorded to other powers. However, it is anticipated by diplomats that the demand will be granted before the arrival of the American squadron at Smyrna.

CANNOT CARRY ARMS**Porte Gives Warning to Russia Re Volunteer Fleet.**

Constantinople, Monday, Aug. 8.—In connection with the volunteer fleet question, the Porte which is being supported by Great Britain has reminded the Russian Government of its agreement with Turkey in 1891. This agreement stipulates that vessels of the Russian fleet must not carry arms and munitions of war.

The Porte also demands that the vessels shall traverse the Bosphorus separately.

REMEMBERED THE DAY**U. S. Ships in the Coronation Day Ceremonies at Gibraltar.**

Gibraltar, Aug. 9.—The United States battleship squadron, Rear Admiral Barker commanding, which arrived here yesterday, dressed ship and fired a salute today in honor of coronation day, the second anniversary of the crowning of King Edward. Rear Admiral Sir Edward Chichester, who commanded the British cruiser Immortal at Manila during the Spanish-American war, was also present.

AUSTRALIA AND TOBACCO**Commonwealth May Make Public Monopolies of Them.**

[Special to the Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 9.—J. S. Lorke, Canadian commercial agent in Australia, writes that the governments of both of Australia and New Zealand may take the tobacco business into public monopolies. Two Canadian companies are already pushing for trade in the Commonwealth, but neither feels like spending much money in opening a business that may be taken away shortly after. Mr. Lorke says there is a feeling in Australia that the country, as they have found the quality and price both satisfactory.

A Kingston Explosion.

Kingston, Ont., Aug. 9.—An explosion on Saturday night wrecked the manufactory of William Kelch, 45 Princess street. Fire broke out, but was quickly extinguished. The cause of the explosion is a mystery, but it is suspected that sewer gas was the cause. The building was not insured.

BANDIT FROM TORONTO**Former Queen City Man in Hold-Up of Limited.**

Phillipsburg, Mont., Aug. 9.—John Christie, partner of George F. Hays, found in the robbery of the North Coast Limited near Beaufort, has been held in a hold-up in lieu of which he was taken to the jail. Christie's early life was spent in the vicinity of Toronto, Ont., but he has since been in the United States and North Dakota for several years.

**JAPANESE ARE
AGAIN ASSAULTING****Believed To Be Storming the Remaining Outer Positions at Port Arthur.**

Che Foo, Aug. 9.—From a source hitherto reliable it is said there is good reason to believe that the Japanese are renewing their attack on the remaining positions at Port Arthur. The officers of the German cruiser Puerst Bismarck, lying at the outer edge of this harbor, express the opinion that the firing heard last night was an encounter between detachments of warships, twenty miles northwest of Che Foo. From the cruiser the flashes of the guns could be seen.

WEATHER BULLETIN.**Tomorrow—Showery.**

Toronto, Aug. 9—8-9 p.m. Fine weather has been general throughout Canada today, with the exception of local showers in the Maritime Provinces and very light thunderstorms in Eastern Ontario. It has been comparatively cool everywhere except in Cape Breton and the interior of British Columbia, where maximum temperatures have exceeded 97°.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 38-70; Port Simpson, 50-58; Victoria, 55-61; Kamloops, 60-80; Q'Appelle, 50-72; Winnipeg, 52-64; Port Arthur, 44-72; Parry Sound, 46-80; Toronto, 60-72; Ottawa, 51-68; Montreal, 64-70; Quebec, 54-70; St. John, 54-70; Halifax, 46-70.

FORECASTS.

Today—Moderate to fresh east to south winds; fine.
Wednesday—Some showers.
TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Weather.
Calgary.....52.....56.....64.....Clear
Parry Sound.....55.....61.....68.....Fair
Toronto.....60.....66.....72.....Clear
Ottawa.....58.....64.....70.....Fair
Montreal.....60.....66.....72.....Clear
Quebec.....54.....60.....66.....Clear
Father Point.....52.....58.....64.....Clear

WEATHER NOTES.
Rain has fallen generally in the Maritime Provinces, and a few scattered showers have occurred in the Northwest Territories. Elsewhere the weather has been fine. Cool conditions prevail.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Monday were: Highest, 80°; lowest, 46°.

SPECIAL COURT**WILL BE CALLED****To Investigate Sinking of Knight Commander.****EXPECT REVERSAL OF DECISION****Great Britain and the United States in Absolute Accord as to Rights of Neutral Commerce.**

London, Aug. 9.—The Associated Press learns that absolute accord exists between the United States and Great Britain in respect to the rights of neutral commerce, and when the declaration of Secretary Hay was published yesterday (it was communicated at the time of its issue in June by Ambassador Choate to Foreign Secretary Lansdowne) the state department was informed that it was in entire accord with the attitude of Great Britain. In order that Russia might understand the similarity of the British and American views, Lord Lansdowne directed the British ambassador at St. Petersburg to protest against the Russian definition of contraband along the same lines as the declaration transmitted through the American ambassador.

Great Britain would like the United States to take steps to obtain an international declaration defining the rights of neutrals, but it is not thought that the foreign office that Secretary Hay will do so, it being understood that he proposes to retain complete liberty of action.

With reference to the examination of a special admiralty prize court at the Russian capital to reconsider the case of the British steamer Knight Commander announced in the dispatches from St. Petersburg last night the British officials are confident that it will reverse the decision of the prize court at Vladivostok.

"They maintain that the decision declaring the steamer to be a lawful prize was a mistake, and that, under international law, and whatever the vessel carried, Admiral Jenson had no right to sink her. Great Britain will not accept a settlement merely by the payment of a monetary indemnity, but insists that a broad principle shall be established. This Russia cannot admit at this moment in view of the Vladivostok court, but if the new court declares as Great Britain anticipates, that international law did not justify the sinking of a neutral ship, then the question will be capable of readjustment."

The foreign office here denies that there will be any reference of the Knight Commander question to The Hague arbitration court, and says it is a matter for the prize court to decide. The Russian officials, however, are confident that the prize court will be achieved.

The Captured Calhas

Vladivostok, Aug. 8.—The British steamer Calhas, from Tacoma, for Japanese ports, which was arrested by the Vladivostok squadron, 30 miles north of Tokyo, arrived here this afternoon in charge of a prize crew. She was a week overdue, having been detained by fog. The Calhas is the last vessel captured by Admiral Jenson's cruiser. The papers of the Calhas showed she was carrying 370 tons of flour, 3 tons of cotton, 25 cogs, and 125 packages of machinery, all consigned to Yokohama. The remaining 1,500 tons of the Calhas' cargo were consigned to Hong Kong. The Calhas carried sufficient coal to go to Vladivostok. Therefore, it was decided to send her to that port in charge of Lieut. Stackelberg and 41 men from the Russian fleet.

TOLSTOI BLAMED FOR WAR**Russia Declares His Teachings Encouraged Japan.**

New York, Aug. 9.—Russia paid Count Leo Tolstoi the compliment of an official answer to his powerful indictment of the Russian Empire, given out by the Minister of the Interior at St. Petersburg, and its text has just arrived in America. The reply among other intimations says: "Leo Tolstoi is a force tending, fortunately without success, to disintegrate the Russian Empire. It was just that the Japanese calculated when they rushed headlong into an unequal conflict with the Russian Colossus."

**THE AUSTRALIANS
CHOOSE CAPITAL****Decide on Dalgety, N. S. W.—Population Is 300 and Miles From Railroad.**

Melbourne, Victoria, Aug. 9.—The location of the Federal capital, so long in dispute, is believed to have been finally settled today by a vote in the House of Representatives approving Dalgety, in the Bombala district. Dalgety had previously been selected by the Senate. Dalgety is situated 296 miles south of Sydney, N. S. W., and is 22 miles from the nearest railroad station. The population is under 300. It has a court house, two hotels, two stores and two churches.

New Zealand Earthquake.

Wellington, New Zealand, Aug. 9.—The heaviest earthquake which New Zealand has experienced in many years, occurred at 10:22 o'clock this morning. Several public buildings were seriously damaged, and private firms also suffered heavy losses. The shock was general on both islands. No loss of life has been reported.

Ryan for Europe.

New York, Aug. 9.—John J. Ryan, the horseman recently arrested here and taken to Missouri on an indictment found in connection with a defunct turf investment concern, is reported to have sailed for Europe. He was accompanied by his eldest daughter.

WILL OPPOSE SUTHERLAND**Mr. D. B. Odette May Be the Conservative Candidate.**

Windsor, Ont., Aug. 8.—D. B. Odette, commission merchant of this city, has announced himself a candidate for the Conservative nomination of the Dominion Parliament in opposition to R. T. Sutherland, M. P., in the next election. There has been considerable of a split in the Conservative ranks in the north riding of Essex for the past four years, and this year it is expected the two opposing factions will unite and stand by the nominee. Mr. Odette was defeated candidate for parliamentary honors several years ago.

**GERMANY AND
THE SEIZURES****Believes Russia Will Modify Action in the Far East.****AWAITS DECISION OF COURT****Before Making Representations to St. Petersburg Over Capture of the Ship Theta.**

Berlin, Germany, Aug. 9.—Germany is pursuing leisurely her investigation into the sinking of the German steamer Theta by the Vladivostok squadron. It is pointed out here that the American developments in connection with the case have been excluded since it is known that her cargo was not American, but belonged to Japanese merchants. Germany is less exasperated over the sinking of the vessel since Russia already has reversed her rigid course in the Red Sea, and the German Government assumes that she will do likewise in the Far East. Russia, of course, will continue to exercise the right of search and capture, but in such a manner as not to give occasion for complaints on the part of the powers. Hence Germany patiently awaits the decision of the prize court at Vladivostok before making representations at St. Petersburg. In the meanwhile, it is practically certain that the powers will avoid a decision on the theoretical question whether provisions of all kinds are exempt from contraband treatment. The officials here see in the recent declarations of the state department that the United States is inclined to admit that provisions can be regarded as contraband in extreme cases as when manifestly destined for hostile countries, and Russia has given indications that Secretary Hay's position is satisfactory to her.

No Contraband Aboard

LATER.
Victoria, B. C., Aug. 9.—The Victoria agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company emphatically denies that the Empress of China is carrying arms for Japan, as stated by the New York Herald. As a naval reserve ship, she could not, and in any event, the risk would be too great. The company is accepting no contraband of any kind, and the Empress of China refused several cars of canned meat for shipment to Japan. Furthermore, arms could not be secreted aboard, as they would be sure to be detected.

**LAST SITTING OF
HOUSE, PERHAPS****Commons Hopes to Prorogue Tomorrow—Conservatives Rushing Off Literature.**

[Special to the Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 9.—The House met this forenoon at 11 o'clock for what the members devoutly hope will prove the last sitting of the session. Dr. Sproule and his supporters on the Opposition side hope to see prorogation reached tomorrow, but at the same time nobody would like to stake his reputation on the certainty of the end being then. The Conservative party managers are working overtime to get off the balance of their present stock of campaign literature, which has represented forty or fifty mail bags per day of late. Till the list of this has gone out under members' franks the Conservative side is in no hurry for prorogation.

BEARS HOLD UP TRAIN**Four of Them Undermine a Trestle on Pennsylvania.**

Williamsport, Pa., Aug. 9.—An excursion train on the Black Forest Railroad was held up for an hour Saturday by four bears at a trestle crossing a mountain stream. One of the bears was caught between the ties and the engine was stopped. Then it was found that portions of the trestle had been so undermined by the bears as to be unsafe. Stone throwing did not frighten the animals, and they were finally driven off with torches made of long sticks and waste taken from the axle boxes of the cars. Then temporary repairs were made, and the train resumed its journey. There were 150 passengers on board, mostly women and children. The Black Forest Railroad is a narrow gauge which penetrates a dense forest region.

Defeated the Tigers**Port Huron Tigers and the Chatham, Ont., Baseball Team Played the Second of a Series of Annual Games for a Silver Cup Trophy Yesterday Afternoon.**

Port Huron, Mich., Aug. 9.—The Port Huron Tigers and the Chatham, Ont., baseball team played the second of a series of annual games for a silver cup trophy yesterday afternoon, the local team winning by a score of 21 to 11. Last year's game was won by the Canadians, and the trophy is now transferred to Port Huron.

**10,000 SICK AT
PORT ARTHUR****Asks Permission of Japs to Send Wounded Away.****STOESSSEL REPORTED A SUICIDE****Russians Claim That the Enemy Lost Two Ships in Recent Operations Off the Harbor.**

London, Aug. 9.—According to the correspondent of the Morning Post, at Shanghai, it is reported there that there are 10,000 sick and wounded persons at Port Arthur, and that the Russians are negotiating with the Japanese to send the hospital ship Mongolia away full of sick.

It is reported, the correspondent says, that Lieut.-Gen. Stoessel (in command of the military at Port Arthur), has committed suicide, and that panic prevails at Port Arthur.

Marquis Oyama (commander-in-chief of the Japanese forces in Manchuria), has proceeded north and expects to attack Liao Yang on Aug. 20.

Same Old Rumors

St. Petersburg, Aug. 8.—The city is full of wild rumors that Port Arthur has fallen, due to reports from "Che Foo" of another assault, in which the fortress was taken by the combined land and sea forces, though the Japanese lost three warships, including the protected cruisers Chiyoda and Itsukushima. There is not the slightest confirmation of these rumors.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 8.—Emperor Nicholas has received the following dispatch from Viceroy Alexeff dated at Vladivostok:

"Telegrams received today from Port Arthur and from the commander of the squadron state that the Russian battleships Askold, Pallada and Novik, and some gunboats steamed out of the harbor on July 26 for the purpose of bombarding the enemy's positions. They were attacked by the Japanese battleship Chin Yen, the protected cruisers Chiyoda, Itsukushima and Matsushima, and two second class cruisers with thirty torpedo boats.

"An eight-inch shell from the Chin Yen burst in the stern of the Itsukushima, placing that ship out of action. Thereupon all the Japanese ships steamed for the open sea and at the same time the Chiyoda was damaged by a Russian mine. As the Chiyoda was sinking by the head she steered toward Ta Lien Bay. A shot from battery 22 also damaged a Japanese gunboat.

"On July 27 in view of the Japanese having taken the general offensive against our land positions, the Russian battleships Askold, Pallada and Novik, the coast defense ships Gremyashin and Otyashin, the gunboat Glik and twelve torpedo boats were ordered to support our right flank at the demand of Lieut.-General Stoessel.

"Our ships, preceded by mine dredgers, steamed toward Lungtan, from where they bombarded the Japanese positions until 3 p.m.

"On their return a mine exploded underneath one of the dredgers."

A War Council

St. Petersburg, Aug. 8, 5:35 p.m.—An important conference on the military situation was held at the Peterhof Palace today. The ministers of war and marine, the Grand Duke Alexis—the high admiral—Gen. Goltz, one of General Kuropatkin's aides de camp, who just arrived from the front with personal dispatches for his majesty and others, were present.

Che Foo, Aug. 8, 11 p.m.—The firing of heavy guns at intervals of one minute has been distinctly heard in the direction of Port Arthur since 10:30 p.m., the acoustic conditions of the atmosphere being unusually favorable.

Hold Wolf Hill.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—A dispatch received here from the Lieut.-General Stoessel confirms previous reports that the Japanese before Port Arthur are in possession of Wolf Hill. He says that on July 20 the Russians withdrew from their positions on Wolf Hill before the numerical superiority of the Japanese.

Gen. Stoessel estimates the number of Japanese attacking Port Arthur at 70,000.

Liner as Cruiser.

Plymouth, Eng., Aug. 9.—The British steamer Manora from Calcutta, June 23, for London arrived here today and reported that when 25 miles south of Cape Finisterre the Grand Duke Alexei—the high admiral—Gen. Goltz, one of General Kuropatkin's aides de camp, who just arrived from the front with personal dispatches for his majesty and others, were present.

Just as Planned

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—No fresh news of fighting or army movements comes from the front, and opinion still is divided as to whether the coming battle, the beginning of which the public is expecting to hear hourly, will be a general engagement or only another rear guard action. All the newspapers today express great relief over the reports from Port Arthur. The report gives no details, it is evident, the Japanese have suffered a very serious reverse. The papers also pay a tribute to the navy's share in the defense of the beleaguered fortress.

Reviewing Gen. Kuropatkin's movement, it continues:

"The retreat is in accordance with a plan laid down for the first period of the campaign, which is to weaken the forces of the enemy by contesting the defense of the beleaguered fortress, thus impeding Japanese progress and compelling the enemy to waste large numbers of men and much war material on the advances. The results have been, that, in three and one half months, the Japanese have only covered a few score

The Russ estimates that the Japanese loss thus far as a result of the siege of Port Arthur aggregate 23,000 men, and says the Mikado's expectation that waste lives must have been ironical,