

RUSSIA MAY PROPOSE PEACE AT ANY TIME.

Japanese Pursuit Seems to Have Slacked, Though One Army is Marching to Cut the Railway West of Harbin.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 22.—At the admiralty it is strongly intimated that Admiral Rojstvensky will effect a juncture with Admiral Nebogtoff within ten days and then proceed to meet Admiral Togo.

The third division of the Russian Pacific squadron, commanded by Rear Admiral Nebogtoff, left Suda Bay, island of Crete, yesterday, for Port Said.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 22.—The new international loan will be issued at 95 per cent.

TOKIO, March 22.—It is reported that the rear guard of the retreating Russians is twenty miles north of Kai Yuan (about twenty miles north of the Pass) yesterday the Japanese vanguard following closely.

The Russians are retreating along the three main roadways, their destinations being Kirin and Changchun.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 23, 12.35 a. m.—The party within the government which is urging the emperor to indicate to Japan Kuesia's willingness to end the war if a reasonable basis can be reached, as related in these despatches on March 20, has been greatly encouraged the last few days, and an actual pacific proposal may be just ahead.

The Russian government now feels certain that Japan will not make the first move nor disclose her position until overtures are made authoritatively in the Russian emperor's name, on the ground that he alone is capable of binding Russia. It is quite possible that Japan's attitude in this regard has been exposed through unofficial attempts to ascertain terms.

In the conference concerning the question whether Russia should now indicate her willingness for peace all agreed, firstly that preparations to continue the war shall not be relaxed, and secondly, to reject humiliating terms. There probably would be two points on which Russia would be found implacable, namely, cession of territory and indemnity. It is pointed out, however, that if Japan seriously desires enduring peace on collateral questions Russia might be ready to offer liberal compensatory considerations.

GUNSHU PASS, March 22.—The Japanese appear to have given the Russians a temporary respite from pursuit, probably for the purpose of reforming their forces, as they did at the end of the Russian northward march from Liao Yang. The Russian front runs southeast by northwest with the Russian right much nearer the railway than the left, while the Japanese position follows a line intersecting Kai Yuan.

The impression here is that the Japanese eastern army is marching on Kirin, while the western army is continuing north between the Mongolian border and the railway, with the main line from Harbin westward its objective, but a period of inactivity is the likeliest outcome after the great exertions of the Japanese on the Shikhe at Mukden and the Pass. Rumors of a probability that Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevitch will assume command of the army, lately current at Mukden, have been revived here the past two days and are continuing in the opinion of the nomination of General Litvich.

LONDON, March 22.—The correspondent at Tokio of the Daily Telegraph says: "An officer who has returned from Mukden describes the terrible fighting which occurred at the various gates before the capture of Mukden. He says that never in the history of warfare were such formidable defenses protected Mukden. The ground became covered with hillocks of corpses. Three separate forces attacked the western, southern and eastern gates. The Russian government now feels certain that Japan will not make the first move nor disclose her position until overtures are made authoritatively in the Russian emperor's name, on the ground that he alone is capable of binding Russia. It is quite possible that Japan's attitude in this regard has been exposed through unofficial attempts to ascertain terms.

AGAINST SEPARATE SCHOOLS. CHIPMAN, N. B., March 22.—At a largely attended meeting of Chipman, L. O. L., No. 150, last evening, the following resolution, moved by R. H. Flawelling and seconded by F. J. Brewster, was passed unanimously: "Resolved—1. That this lodge place itself on record as opposed to the introduction of said separate schools in aforesaid provinces as a menace to the harmony now existing between the religious denominations in Canada, as well as between the various nationalities represented in Canada; and further—Resolved—2. That we use our utmost endeavors in all ways that seem fitting and proper, to have free and non-sectarian schools established such as prevail in the present provinces, and which have given universal satisfaction; and to that end be it

Resolved—3. That copies of this resolution be forwarded to our representatives, B. D. Wilton, P. S. Sproule (Grand Master and S. B. A.), and to the press."

FACIAL PARALYSIS. Mr. W. J. Brennan, Western Hill, St. Catharines, Ont., writes: "My face was all twisted out of shape with facial paralysis, and five doctors failed to cure or even relieve. By the persistent use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, I have been entirely cured, and have returned to work strong and well. I have gained in weight and feel that I have a new lease of life."

SCILLY, March 21.—Passed, strs Europe, Wylie, from Philadelphia and Baltimore, for Depford and Hamburg; Florence, Barr, from St. John, N.B., and Halifax, for London.

R. L. BORDEN'S STRONG STAND AGAINST COERCION OF NORTH WEST

Attacks Laurier for Infringement on Provincial Rights--Fielding Meekly Defends the Bill.

OTTAWA, Ont., March 22.—The galleries of the house were crowded this afternoon never before this session, the attraction being the new bill which Laurier took the floor, being cheered to the echo.

Sir Wilfrid expressed pleasure at the good feeling with which both sides of the house so far treated the question. When the bill was first introduced Borden was calm and tactful, but the press at his back had spared no efforts to inflame the public mind on this time inflammable question.

Mr. Borden devoted the first hour of his speech to a keen analysis of the constitutional question raised by Laurier, showing that while professing to stand up for the B. N. A. Act in the privileges it confers on the provinces, the premier had craftily varied his ground and added these words: "Except in so far as varied by this act."

Borden evoked round after round of applause as he showed that Laurier, while professing to give the new provinces the full measure of provincial rights, was in fact effecting an amendment to the B. N. A. Act in the imperial parliament alone possessing the power to amend.

Borden in the early part of his speech said he would leave Sir Wilfrid Laurier to his own devices, but the circumstances were not the first time that he had failed to treat this question of new provinces in a serious way.

On the introduction of the bill Sir Wilfrid had declared that the step which they were taking for the creation of new provinces was easy and comparatively unimportant in view of and in comparison with what had already been accomplished.

Borden closed his powerful speech tonight by moving the following amendment to Laurier's resolution: "That all the words after the word 'that' to the end of the question be left out and the following substituted therefore: 'Upon the establishment of a province in the Northwest Territories of Canada as provided by bill No. 69 the legislature of such province, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the B. N. A. Act, shall have full powers of provincial self-government, including power to make laws in relation to education.'"

MR. FIELDING'S SPEECH. Fielding began to speak at 10:30 o'clock and defended the bill in its sections, particularly with regard to the public lands in the new Northwest provinces on the ground that as the Dominion had to deal with immigration, it was wise to keep control of the acres on which the new settlers will have to locate.

Fielding asserted that the Northwest school system was today a national system pure and simple and should not be interfered with.

Fielding spoke till almost midnight, making a plausible plea for the continuance of Laurier's power on the ground that even the opposition could not form a government except a Protestant one.

Oser, amid loud cheers, said this was the first time in the history of the house such a religious cry had been raised.

Fielding asserted that Borden had started the cry, which Borden indignantly denied amid a storm of conservative cheers.

Dr. Sproule moved the adjournment of the debate, and the house rose just at twelve o'clock.

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PEACE SENTIMENT IN RUSSIA IS GROWING.

Telegrams Conveying Intelligence of Internal Disturbances Being Thrown into Russian Lines.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 24, 1.45 a. m.—The possibility that if the Russian army should be unable to hold the line of the Sungari river at Chunchiatu, it may be compelled to retreat not only to Harbin, but also farther westward along the railway, about only the Japanese Northern Manchuria and the Russian maritime Amur provinces, is the latest startling news from the front.

The strategic weakness of General Litvich's position as he falls back northward is made clear by a Gungshu despatch to the Associated Press, in which it is pointed out that unless Chunchiatu and Sungari lines a scant hundred miles below Harbin, can be held, it will be difficult to maintain a position further back before Harbin, where with the front of the army, the practicability of a turning movement to completely sever communications and isolate the army, six thousand miles from home, is too serious for Russian consideration.

In view of this possibility, the despatch alluded to, suggests the advisability of immediately providing Vladivostok with war munitions and supplies for a two year's siege.

GROWTH IN FAVOR OF PEACE. WASHINGTON, March 23.—The sudden growth of the sentiment in Russian official circles in favor of peace does not surprise officials here, who are cognizant of the fact that recent predictions of the American embassy at St. Petersburg, in fact, it was gathered that the real obstacle in the way of beginning negotiations to end the war was to be found rather in the jealousies of European powers outside of Russia than in the Czar's own country.

For some time there has been substantial evidence that the exertion of quiet pressure from the outside upon the St. Petersburg government, it might be induced to break the deadlock in the situation, which results from the reluctance of each belligerent, as a matter of pride, to making the first overtures for peace.

At this point the efforts of the real friends of peace are said to have been neglected by the fear of some of the European nations that their interests might suffer in a settlement which they did not themselves arrange.

There is reason to believe now, however, that the financial interests of London, Berlin and Paris, looking to their own salvation and the security of their enormous loans to Russia, have risen above national lines, and that to the detriment of their own influence is due the present promise of peace in the near future.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS. The correspondent estimates the number of reinforcements needed to give General Litvich the requisite superiority in force, at 200,000. That such a despatch should have been permitted to pass the censor at the front is significant, and if General Litvich has communicated a similar estimate of the situation direct to Emperor Nicholas it may account for his manifest decision to appoint a listener to peace counsels and open negotiations before the Japanese establish themselves on Russian soil.

It can now be definitely stated that the decision to appoint General Litvich to the supreme command in the Far East was reconsidered because the outlook at the front does not warrant the risk of compromising the prestige of a member of the imperial family.

Military authorities here believe that unless General Litvich is sure of his ability to hold the lower Sungari line he will risk his whole army in fortifications and concentrates there.

Meanwhile Russian reinforcements are arriving at Harbin at the rate of 1,500 men per day.

It is significant that there is now a well marked peace party at the war office.

A CORRESPONDENT'S VIEW. ST. PETERSBURG, March 24, 1.15 a. m.—The Novoe Vremya today will publish a remarkable despatch from a correspondent in the field, who, with the bitter taste of defeat still on his palate, discusses the causes of Russian reverses and contrasts the spirit with which Russia and Japan are conducting the war and with sorrow and disheartening, arraigns the elements in Russia who are nourishing their propaganda on defeats in the far east, "scattering, in the very hour of defeat," according to the correspondent, "broadcast among the heartbeat, retreating soldiers, proclamations urging them to cease fighting and surrender."

The despatch continues: "Not even the enemy has sent us such proclamations, but has confined himself to their throwing into our lines telegrams from foreign agencies about disorders in Russia." Put yourself in the place of the soldiers and officers, who are returned from Mukden, fatigued and heart sore from want of success, have received from a distant home proclamations with advice to that tenor: "Settle aside the factious and temporary nature, the correspondent enumerates four main causes of misfortune: First—Failure to establish for the adequate intelligence departments in Manchuria or to make other preparations, contrasted with Japanese activity in that direction. Second—Russia is dependent upon a

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