

DEFENSES OF HALIFAX AND ESQUIMAULT TO BE TAKEN OVER BY CANADA ON JULY 1; DOMINION TO FOOT BILL IN THE FUTURE

The Garrisons Ultimately To Be Manned by Canadian Infantry.

Means a Saving of Several Millions to the British Taxpayers.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—The Canadian Government will take over from the Imperial authorities on July 1 next the Halifax and Esquimault defenses. Canada will foot the extra bill for the garrisons on the Pacific and on the Atlantic coasts. All that the Dominion does at present is to pay part of the cost of the defense at Esquimault.

It is understood that the British Government suggested that Canada should pay £250,000, or a million and a quarter dollars of the cost of maintaining these defenses, and leave the contract in the hands of the British Government. Canada would not consent to do this. She adhered to her outstanding offer to assume control and foot the whole bill. It was not a question of cost with the Dominion, because the entire outlay will be over \$2,000,000. What Canada objected to was making any permanent expenditure which would not be under the control of the Dominion Parliament.

The British authorities have agreed to begin with over \$2,000,000 to the British taxpayer, while the control of the Halifax and Esquimault garrisons will pass into the hands of Canada on July 1.

The Dominion will only take over the different services gradually.

There is certain work with which Canadians are not yet familiar, and British officers and men will continue in such positions until Canadians qualify. Canada could supply the necessary infantry in short order, but it would take some time to get an engineering staff, etc.

Canada regards with great favor the completion which Britain has paid her in handing over these important defenses to her care. The trust will be well looked after.

Great credit is due Lord Grey for the interest he has taken in carrying these negotiations to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

It will be remembered that during the colonial conference Sir Frederick Borden made an offer to take over the Halifax and Esquimault defenses.

Canada is prepared to pay every dollar that is required for Canadian defense on Canadian soil.

ENGLISH COMPANIES GET NEW CABLE CONTRACT

Bids of Two Big London Con- cerns To Be Accepted by MacKay.

New York, Feb. 20.—The Tribune says: Although the bids received by the Commercial Cable Company for the new Atlantic cable have not been formally accepted, it is probable that the cable contract will be awarded to one or both of two English corporations, the Silvertown Company and the Telegraph Construction Company, both of London. In order to hasten the task of making and laying the cable, Clarence H. MacKay and his associates may give the contract for the shore and sections to one company and the contract for the mid-Atlantic section to the other company.

No American company was requested to bid for the contract. When asked for information as to the reason for inviting only English companies to bid for such an important work, George Gray Ward, vice-president of the Commercial Cable Company, said, last evening:

"It was not because of our company's failure in patriotism, but because there is no American cable company so well equipped for the task that it could make and lay a cable of the standard of excellence we require, in the time we want it ready for use. The English companies have complete facilities for the manufacture of the cable, and, in addition, they have steamships specially designed and manned for the work of laying the

cables. Probably it will take two such steamships to lay the new Atlantic cable.

"The increase in cable business, which has made another Atlantic cable necessary for our company, has been due in great part to the messages passing between members of the London Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange. Interchange of information in arbitrage transactions between English and American brokers has been steadily increasing recently, and the cable permits information to pass between the two exchanges in a minute. It may surprise some people, but it is a fact that English brokers sometimes have a message sent by cable to New York and re-transmitted by cable to a broker in France or Belgium, to save time, instead of sending it direct."

STRATHCONA'S HEALTH Advised Not to Sail for Canada Until Later in the Year.

London, Feb. 18.—Sir Thomas Barlow visited Lord Strathcona this morning, and strongly advised him not to attempt the voyage to Canada until later in the year.

A SHOOTING AFFAIR

A Double Domestic Gunning Reported
From Near Cobourg.

Cobourg, Feb. 18.—A shooting affair took place last night, it is said, at Mr. Blackwell, who claims to be an eye specialist from Toronto and who has been in Rosneath for about a week or ten days, had some trouble with his wife last night, and in some manner both were severely shot by each other. Full particulars are not yet obtainable. The authorities have left for Rosneath.

A JAPANESE ARMY AND NAVY TO INVEST VLADIVOSTOCK

Huge Army Will Endeavor to Cut Off Kuropatkin's Line of Retreat From Mukden.

THE GERMAN KAISER MOVING TO ARRANGE PEACE

Tokio, Feb. 18.—The movement to invest Vladivostock has begun in earnest and a strong Japanese force is now en route towards Ninguta with the purpose not only of cutting off Vladivostock from communication by rail or wire from the Russian base at Harbin, but of establishing a Japanese base from which the retreat of Gen. Kuropatkin from Mukden may be cut off. Japan has in this move already between 60,000 and 75,000 men, a number of whom were with Nogi at Port Arthur.

There are now ready for transportation to Pessiet Bay and Gensan 150,000 more men, who will be pushed forward to support this movement as rapidly as possible. It is the purpose of the general staff to cut off Vladivostock from the sea as well as from the land. For this purpose a squadron, consisting of three armoured cruisers and a number of smaller craft, have been sent to Hakodate and will use that port as a base for the blockading operations.

The latest advices from Manchuria indicate that Marshal Oyama has succeeded in repelling the Japanese advance by the Russians to break through his lines and that a general advance on the part of the Japanese soon will be made.

The best opinion here is that Oyama's attempt to crush Kuropatkin will not be made until he has been informed that the column now advancing against Ninguta has occupied that place and cut off communications between Harbin and Vladivostock. The report that the Czar had called his ministers together to consult on peace terms has made no difference in the Japanese plans. It can be said authoritatively that no advances have been made by Russia looking towards peace and until such advances are made, Japan will continue her war preparations just as though peace was not possible. The war has been financed for another

year, so Japan is fully equipped both in men and money for hostilities until the spring of 1906. No doubt is felt here as to the ability of Japan to finance the war for as long as Russia is willing to be beaten in the field.

More Peace Talk.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—The official explanation of Prince Friedrich Leopold's return to Berlin has been decided to go to Manchuria by water, but there is high authority for the statement that the prince was there in diplomatic circles there exists a suspicion, which amounts almost to conviction, that Emperor William has undertaken peace negotiations in some form. The foreign office insists there is absolutely nothing in the shape of peace negotiations under way or in contemplation.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—The foreign office here regards peace on the initiative of the Russian Government as a possibility, but immediately quashes the statement by saying it is an impression and not a confession supporting the information from St. Petersburg, and adds that Emperor William has not yet decided to go to Manchuria by water. He did not carry any communications of state, but only a family letter from Emperor William to Emperor Nicholas.

Russians Fear Chinese.

Mukden, Feb. 18.—Large bodies of Japanese cavalry are reported to be moving towards Goudzhou Pass from Mongolia. Rumors of suspicious movements by General Ma, military governor of the province of Chi Li, and Chinese troops in neutral territory are causing apprehension lest they are co-operating with the Japanese, and Chinese handbills who are reported to be advancing toward the Russian communications. Two companies of front

COMMISSION FOR HUNTER

Charged With Fraud in Sending
Workmen to Canada.

London, Feb. 20.—Graeme Hunter, generally known as the strike-breaker, made a successful appeal at Glasgow for the appointment of a commission to take evidence in Canada regarding the charges of fraud made against him in connection with the sending of workmen to Canada. The court had ruled that witnesses must be produced to tell the story themselves. In the course of the hearing the crown said it would show that Hunter had made no provisions for hundreds of emigrants who were left on the streets to do what odd jobs came along. The Minister of the Interior is mentioned as one witness for the defense.

A PRODUCE FAMINE

Distillery May Close Down For Present
Through Lack of Grain.

Windsor, Ont., Feb. 20.—There is a great scarcity here of farm and dairy produce owing to the difficulties farmers have in getting their produce to market. No grain has been brought from the country districts to the Walker distillery, and, although a reserve stock is kept on hand, the firm may be compelled to close down if the present weather continues.

THE BYE ELECTIONS

All Ministers Likely To Be Elected
by Acclamation.

Toronto, Feb. 20.—No word was received at the Parliament Buildings today of intended opposition to any of the ministers who will be nominated in their respective constituencies tomorrow. It is generally believed that all will be returned by acclamation. In that event, a cabinet meeting will be held at the Parliament Buildings, and the meeting of the Legislature will then be decided upon.

LUCKY MARCONI

Bride Is Irish Belle and Brings Him
\$4,000 a Year.

New York, Feb. 20.—A Boulogne dispatch to the Herald says: The banns for the marriage of William Marconi to Miss O'Brien have been published at the city hall. The religious wedding is fixed for March 16 at the Roman Catholic Church of St. George, London. Lady Beatrice O'Brien brings to her husband a fortune of \$4,000. After the wedding husband and wife will leave for Rome, where they will remain until the end of April, and will then come to Rome, where it is reported they will be guests of the King for a few days.

RIDER HAGGARD COMING

Will Investigate Farm Colonies of the
Salvation Army.

London, Feb. 20.—The White Star Line steamer, the White Star, sails from Liverpool for New York Feb. 22, will have among her passengers Rider Haggard, the author, who has been appointed commissioner to inquire into the conditions and character of the agricultural and industrial land settlements organized in America by the Salvation Army.

The Powderham Captured.

Tokio, Feb. 20.—The capture is announced by the navy department of the Russian steamer Powderham, bound for Vladivostock with a cargo of Cardiff coal. Where the capture was made is not stated. The Powderham is a steel screw steamer, 3,000 tons register. She was built at Middleboro in 1892, and owned by the Powderham Steamship Company, Plymouth, England.

Ogilvie New Elevator.

Port William, Ont., Feb. 20.—The growing importance of Port William and Port Arthur is shown in the latest addition to the elevator facilities of the twin ports. The new structure, which has just been completed by the MacDonald Engineering Company, of Chicago, has a capacity of 500,000 bushels, and is constructed of steel. The elevator is of the cylindrical type, and is equipped with the most modern labor-saving machinery. Fifteen hundred tons of Pittsburgh steel was used in its construction. The elevator is owned by the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company.

Czar to Give Russians A Popular Assembly

To Be Announced On Anni- versary of Abolition of Serfdom.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—The Tageblatt's St. Petersburg correspondent says that a plenary sitting of the committee of ministers at Tsarskoe-Selo, Feb. 16, decided in principle the question of convoking a popular assembly. The committee decided on Feb. 16 (old style—March 4, new style), the anniversary of the abolition of serfdom, as the date to issue a manifesto concerning the summoning of Zemsky Zabor, in accordance with ancient Russian tradition, and to refer the elaboration of details to a committee of ministers.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—It is stated that Count Colsky, president of the economic department of the council of ministers, and who enjoys the confidence of Emperor Nicholas, will be nominated for the post of president of the projected reconstructed council of ministers. Revolutionary literature is being distributed broadcast throughout the capital, and is to be picked up in offices and factories, wherever it can be scattered to be observed. The pamphlets assert that dissatisfaction is fast spreading in the army, workmen wrecking the house of a suspected political informer. In the fight between the rioters and the police one of the former was killed. Several rioters and one policeman were wounded.

PROVISIONS OF MEASURE FOR THE NEW PROVINCES

Allowance of Eighty Cents Per Head and a Grant of \$50,000.

Ottawa, Feb. 20.—Unless circumstances, at present unforeseen, occur to prevent it, the legislation to grant autonomy to the territories will be introduced on Tuesday. As already stated, there will be two provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, Edmonton will probably be the provision capital of Alberta, and Regina the provisional capital of Saskatchewan. The choice of a permanent capital will, of course, be left to the Provincial Legislatures. The dividing line between the two provinces will run north and south, following, in all likelihood, the 100th meridian. There is a proposition that the northern limits of the two provinces should be extended to the ocean, but it is doubtful whether that idea will be carried out at present. Some people are disposed to think that it will be left over until the general question of the extension of provincial boundaries is taken up. In view of the Government's determination to maintain the Mounted Police, the two provinces will be relieved from the responsibility of policing the vast stretch of country to the north, so that they need feel no particular anxiety about the enlargement of their limits. The Province of Alberta may take in the whole of Athabasca. The expectation is that the number of members for each province will be fixed at 26, but it may be more. The question as to the aid which the new provinces will receive is an important one. There will be an allowance of 80 cents per head up to a certain maximum. This may be calculated on the basis of 250,000 population in each province to start with. What the aid allowance will be is not known outside the inner Government circles. A grant of \$50,000 will most likely represent the allowance for the Government. There is expected to be a provision in the bills to be brought down on Tuesday for the continuation of the present modified system of schools.

SIX LOCOMOTIVES BADLY DAMAGED

Disastrous Fire in the Canadian Pacific Roundhouse at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 20.—A fire which broke out this morning in the Canadian Pacific roundhouse on the Richmond road, caused damages roughly estimated at \$5,000. Six locomotives were more or less damaged and the entire roundhouse, a large and important section of the semi-circular structure are gutted. It is supposed that fire from the engines or from a torch ignited the wood work, and in a short time the whole interior east of a fire wall was ablaze. When the fire broke out there were thirteen locomotives in the roundhouse. Of these all but six were removed, mostly under their own steam to a place of safety, though not before they had sustained damage.

NEW FERRY BOAT FROM THE PORT RULES OF 1867

A \$350,000 Craft To Be Placed On the Conneaut and Rondeau Route.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 20.—A Cleveland special says the American Shipbuilding Company has closed a contract with the Bessemer Dock and Navigation Company for a new twin-screw car ferry to come out next October. The boat will be built at the local shipyards, will cost \$350,000, and will be operated between Conneaut and Rondeau, and Port Stanley and Port Dover, on the Canadian side. She will be 350 feet keel, 54 feet beam, and 19½ feet to the deck. She will have two sets of triple expansion engines and four Scotch boilers.

THE WEATHER.

Tomorrow.—Fair.

London, Monday, Feb. 20.
Sun rises: 7:09 a.m. Moon rises: 7:16 p.m.
Sun sets: 5:54 p.m. Moon sets: 1:39 a.m.
Toronto, Feb. 19—8 p.m.
Cold weather has prevailed today in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, while elsewhere in Canada it has been milder. The outlook for Ontario is for a period of milder conditions.
Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 46-50; Kamloops, 30-42; Calgary, 34-42; Qu'Appelle, 2-38; Winnipeg, 2 below-22; Port Arthur, 12 below-16; Parry Sound, 20 below-22; Toronto, 4 below-8; Ottawa, 12 below-12; Montreal, 6 below-8; Quebec, 10 below-6; Halifax, zero-6.

FORECASTS.

Monday, Feb. 20—8 a.m.
Today—Westerly winds; fair and mild.
Tuesday, Feb. 21—Fair.

TEMPERATURES.
Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.
Calgary 20 18 Fair
Winnipeg 16 6 Fair
Parry Sound 24 16 Rain
Toronto 28 20 Cloudy
Ottawa 16 6 Fair
Montreal 16 4 Fair
Quebec 4 -6 Cloudy
St. John's 40 30 Cloudy
The sign - indicates below zero.

WEATHER NOTES.

The weather continues quite cold in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, but has moderated in other parts of the Dominion.
The highest and lowest readings for the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Saturday were: Highest, 15°; lowest, 25° above; Sunday: Highest, 25° above; lowest, 6° below.

CZAR'S MOTHER NEXT TO DIE

Warman Letter Sent by the Revolutionists.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—According to reports in circulation the Emperor's mother has received a threatening letter warning her that she will be the next victim. Another rumor is that at a meeting of the grand dukes last night it was unanimously decided to withdraw all opposition to the assembling of Zemsky Zabor, and to recommend its immediate summoning by the Emperor.

An official announcement last night says: Grand Duke Paul and Rano-vitch will resume his military service as general aide-de-camp to the Emperor, and will attend the funeral of Grand Duke Sergius at Moscow. The decision of the Emperor in this period of his grief to restore Grand Duke Paul, the youngest brother of Grand Duke Sergius to rank and family is felt to be a most gracious act. Grand Duke Paul was degraded several years ago because he persisted in contracting a morganatic marriage with Madame Olga Pistoletskoe, despite the commands of the Emperor and the wishes of the imperial family. He was deprived of rank in the army, and his orders and decorations were withdrawn. The doors of Russia were closed to him, and Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Sergius extended the shelter of their home to his two children by his first marriage, and virtually adopted them. The decree against Grand Duke Paul had been relaxed to the extent that he was allowed to return to Russia, and the Emperor's action now permits him to take his rightful place with the other imperial mourners.

HON. GEO. ROSS GOING SOUTH

Ex-Premier Leaves for a Tri- to Jamaica, Seeking Recreation.

Toronto, Feb. 18.—Ex-Premier Ross leaves on Monday for Jamaica. It is stated he has felt the reaction consequent upon his relinquishing the duties of government, and since his resignation has been laid up a good deal of the time in bed. Some of his friends, however, say he is feeling as well as usual, except that his chronic affliction (rheumatism) is bothering him a little more than usual, and that it is believed the change to a warm climate will entirely recuperate him.

WHITNEY TO USE RULES OF 1867

Old Set of Regulations for Con- trol of Parliament To Be Resurrected.

Toronto, Feb. 20.—The Ontario Government has decided that the rules and regulations adopted in 1867 and framed upon those of the House of Commons respecting the control and care of the Parliament Buildings and which it is stated had fallen into disuse will now be enforced. For instance, the speaker will have complete control of the Assembly, fixing the hours of attendance of the respective officers of the House and extra clerks, and being responsible for the appointment. It is claimed that formerly these matters were dealt with by ministers with portfolio. The speaker will also have control of the Legislature library.

THE ASSASSIN.

Moscow, Feb. 18.—It appears to be confirmed that Grand Duke Sergius when killed was on his way to the Governor's palace to see the Emperor, he resided while Governor-General, for the purpose of taking a bath. The grand duke was a great lover of Russian baths, those he had arranged for the palace being most sumptuous. Vice-Governor Sabouloff, who was preceding the grand duke from the ill-fated Custer (Keno and Benton), Red Square, and turned back to warn the grand duke to proceed through a side street, but he was already too late. The explosion occurred as he reached the Kremlin gate. While the assassin was dressed as a peasant, it is evident that he belongs to a higher class. His papers were all forged, and there is no clue yet to his identity. Policeman Leontieff, who was near the gate, and who saw the assassin, says that just as the grand duke's carriage drove into Senate Square, the murderer moved out and hurled the bomb directly into the carriage window. A blinding flash and a terrific explosion followed, the force of the impact being a piece of splinters. The air was absolutely filled with a red haze, blood being splattered to a distance of 300 feet. The maddened, wounded horses dashed forward, dragging the coachman, Andrew, a man of gigantic stature, but they soon fell in their tracks. An officer who witnessed the tragedy from the barracks, directed some soldiers to bring a stretcher, himself covering the remains, of which only a leg and a portion of the body were intact, with the overcoat of one of the men.

IDLINGTON SWORN IN

Canada Third in Growth of Exports in a Decade.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Feb. 20.—Justice Idlington was sworn in judge of the supreme court today.

For the decade ending June 30 last, Canada occupied third position in regard to relative growth of its export trade. Japan comes first with 151.74 per cent, Argentine next with 124.86, and the United States 91.98 per cent. United States \$5.11, and United Kingdom 32.23.

Hit by Snowplow.

Napanee, Feb. 20.—John Jonson, of Napanee, while walking on the Bay of Quinte Railway tracks to Strathcona, on his way to work, was picked up and killed by the snowplow about 6 o'clock this morning.

SITTING BULL IN THE NORTHWEST

Story of His Escape After the Custer Massacre.

NO ROYALTY AT THE FUNERAL Body To Be Kept at Moscow for the Present—Police Unable to Identify the Assassin.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—According to reports in circulation the Emperor's mother has received a threatening letter warning her that she will be the next victim. Another rumor is that at a meeting of the grand dukes last night it was unanimously decided to withdraw all opposition to the assembling of Zemsky Zabor, and to recommend its immediate summoning by the Emperor.

WARMAN HAS INTERVIEW WITH MEMBER OF MOUNTED POLICE WHO HELPED ROUND UP THE BAND.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Feb. 17.—It was after the terrible disaster to the troops of the United States on Little Big Horn River, in the Yellowstone region, that my informant—an officer of the Northwest Mounted Police—became acquainted with Sitting Bull, and gleaned from the lips of that famous Indian, organizer and fighter, through the aid of a friendly interpreter, the tales of the fearful struggle that led to the wiping out of Gen. Custer's command.

Sitting Bull, knowing full well that the people of the United States would demand the avenging of the death of the gallant Custer and his associates, gathered up the unkillable of his hostile aggregation of Indians and army men across the border into Canada. The fight took place in June, 1875, and was the sequel of a long period of trouble between the original owners of the soil and the soldiers and fortune-hunters. Doubtless, if the United States authorities had to do it all over again, they would choose more fitting means, more humane methods, for dealing with the Indians than characterized their operations up to and beyond the time of Sitting Bull. It is now conceded that the Minnesota massacres of 1862, in which over 1,500 men, women and children were killed, were in no small measure brought on by the conduct of the short-sighted agents of the National Government in dealing with the Indians. Nor can there be a doubt that Sitting Bull was rendered a power as an organizer of hostilities by the Indians, who were charged with the disposal of the public lands. From headquarters at Washington west reports of the assassination of Gen. Custer and his troops to the Indians that justice would be done, but almost invariably these promises were unheeded by those charged with the management of the fair. There was indeed much warrant for Sitting Bull's famous reply, "Tell them at Washington if they have one man who speaks the truth to send him to me, and I will listen to what he has to say."

A POWERFUL CHIEF.

This chief was the most powerful Indian among the Sioux for many years. Around him and his lieutenant, Crazy Horse, gathered every Indian who had a grievance. Their bands, small at first, grew to many hundreds of resolute men, and though in other parts of the country the national troops fought the Indians, and caused them to give up their lands, in the region dominated by Sitting Bull, the United States peace commission in 1868 declined to purchase the land. Indians certain rights which were promised would be scrupulously respected. But, within a few months, while the Sioux fought against the territory surrendered was treated as hostile and hounded down. The whites, in large numbers, went into the forbidden country and pressed for the precious metals, protected by the military. The thirst for gold was great, and the Indians swarmed with men looking for it with feverish excitement.

The Custer Disaster.

The friction arising from the conflict of opposing interests led to the sending of Gen. Custer and his troops to the Yellowstone region in the summer of 1875. Mayhew the fact was unknown to the gallant general, but it was nevertheless asserted that Canadian agents had been coining money out of the sale of hundreds of rounds and revolvers and thousands of rounds of ammunition to the Indians. In the battle of the Little Big Horn it was claimed by Sitting Bull that the Indians were twice their privations the regular forces sent against them. Perhaps, too, the outcome might have been different if the associates of the ill-fated Custer (Keno and Benton), had better obeyed orders, and had given the energetic support to their leader, which he was already too weak to give. It serves no good purpose now to revive the question of their conduct in this regard. We do know that Custer and his associates fought a desperate battle, and were wiped out almost to a man—only one Indian scout escaping to tell the terrible story of the great disaster, and the Indians only won because they had far more men than were sent against them. They neither sought nor did they give quarter, and their own losses were greater in point of numbers than the total United States force under Custer. Their blood-thirstiness was expedition in a large measure the outcome of their savage natures, but their treatment by the United States was equally savage. They refused to surrender, seize the ponies and set fire to the camps. Such drastic measures may have been necessary in border warfare, but they could not fail to breed a spirit of revenge.

Sitting Bull in Canada.

Though victorious in this battle, Sitting Bull and his braves knew that they could not stand against the forces that the United States could bring against them, and the council of war decided that they should fly to Canada. Great were the privations endured on the long journey to the Northwest, and many horses were killed and eaten to provide food. The moving spirit of the expedition, which caused both Canada and the United States so much anxiety for the subsequent four years, was Sitting Bull. As my informant saw him at Fort Walsh, a few days after the fugitives camped on Canadian soil, he was a man in the prime of life, about 27 feet 10 inches in height. His long, black hair hung down his back, athwart his cheeks and in front of his shoulders. His eyes gleamed like diamonds. His visage was noble and commanding; may, it was some more. He looked a splendid nature, a nobility. While a Canadian was largely devoid of incident the presence in the

SITTING BULL IN THE NORTHWEST

Story of His Escape After the Custer Massacre.

NO ROYALTY AT THE FUNERAL Body To Be Kept at Moscow for the Present—Police Unable to Identify the Assassin.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—According to reports in circulation the Emperor's mother has received a threatening letter warning her that she will be the next victim. Another rumor is that at a meeting of the grand dukes last night it was unanimously decided to withdraw all opposition to the assembling of Zemsky Zabor, and to recommend its immediate summoning by the Emperor.

WARMAN HAS INTERVIEW WITH MEMBER OF MOUNTED POLICE WHO HELPED ROUND UP THE BAND.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Feb. 17.—It was after the terrible disaster to the troops of the United States on Little Big Horn River, in the Yellowstone region, that my informant—an officer of the Northwest Mounted Police—became acquainted with Sitting Bull, and gleaned from the lips of that famous Indian, organizer and fighter, through the aid of a friendly interpreter, the tales of the fearful struggle that led to the wiping out of Gen. Custer's command.

Sitting Bull, knowing full well that the people of the United States would demand the avenging of the death of the gallant Custer and his associates, gathered up the unkillable of his hostile aggregation of Indians and army men across the border into Canada. The fight took place in June, 1875, and was the sequel of a long period of trouble between the original owners of the soil and the soldiers and fortune-hunters. Doubtless, if the United States authorities had to do it all over again, they would choose more fitting means, more humane methods, for dealing with the Indians than characterized their operations up to and beyond the time of Sitting Bull. It is now conceded that the Minnesota massacres of 1862, in which over 1,500 men, women and children were killed, were in no small measure brought on by the conduct of the short-sighted agents of the National Government in dealing with the Indians. Nor can there be a doubt that Sitting Bull was rendered a power as an organizer of hostilities by the Indians, who were charged with the disposal of the public lands. From headquarters at Washington west reports of the assassination of Gen. Custer and his troops to the Indians that justice would be done, but almost invariably these promises were unheeded by those charged with the management of the fair. There was indeed much warrant for Sitting Bull's famous reply, "Tell them at Washington if they have one man who speaks the truth to send him to me, and I will listen to what he has to say."

A POWERFUL CHIEF.

This chief was the most powerful Indian among the Sioux for many years. Around him and his lieutenant, Crazy Horse, gathered every Indian who had a grievance. Their bands, small at first, grew to many hundreds of resolute men, and though in other parts of the country the national troops fought the Indians, and caused them to give up their lands, in the region dominated by Sitting Bull, the United States peace commission in 1868 declined to purchase the land. Indians certain rights which were promised would be scrupulously respected. But, within a few months, while the Sioux fought against the territory surrendered was treated as hostile and hounded down. The whites, in large numbers, went into the forbidden country and pressed for the precious metals, protected by the military. The thirst for gold was great, and the Indians swarmed with men looking for it with feverish excitement.

The Custer Disaster.

The friction arising from the conflict of opposing interests led to the sending of Gen. Custer and his troops to the Yellowstone region in the summer of 1875. Mayhew the fact was unknown to the gallant general, but it was nevertheless asserted that Canadian agents had been coining money out of the sale of hundreds of rounds and revolvers and thousands of rounds of ammunition to the Indians. In the battle of the Little Big Horn it was claimed by Sitting Bull that the Indians were twice their privations the regular forces sent against them. Perhaps, too, the outcome might have been different if the associates of the ill-fated Custer (Keno and Benton), had better obeyed orders, and had given the energetic support to their leader, which he was already too weak to give. It serves no good purpose now to revive the question of their conduct in this regard. We do know that Custer and his associates fought a desperate battle, and were wiped out almost to a man—only one Indian scout escaping to tell the terrible story of the great disaster, and the Indians only won because they had far more men than were sent against them. They neither sought nor did they give quarter, and their own losses were greater in point of numbers than the total United States force under Custer. Their blood-thirstiness was expedition in a large measure the outcome of their savage natures, but their treatment by the United States was equally savage. They refused to surrender, seize the ponies and set fire to the camps. Such drastic measures may have been necessary in border warfare, but they could not fail to breed a spirit of revenge.

Sitting Bull in Canada.

Though victorious in this battle, Sitting Bull and his braves knew that they could not stand against the forces that the United States could bring against them, and the council of war decided that they should fly to Canada. Great were the privations endured on the long journey to the Northwest, and many horses were killed and eaten to provide food. The moving spirit of the expedition, which caused both Canada and the United States so much anxiety for the subsequent four years, was Sitting Bull. As my informant saw him at Fort Walsh, a few days after the fugitives camped on Canadian soil, he was a man in the prime of life, about 27 feet 10 inches in height. His long, black hair hung down his back, athwart his cheeks and in front of his shoulders. His eyes gleamed like diamonds. His visage was noble and commanding; may, it was some more. He looked a splendid nature, a nobility. While a Canadian was largely devoid of incident the presence in the