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TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR

EIGHT PAGES—MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 22 1904—EIGHT PAGES

KING EDWARD OF ENGLAND OFFERS HIS SERVICES AS MEDIATOR.

London, Feb. 22.—Count Benckendorff, Russian Ambassador to the Court of St. James, is going to St. Petersburg to personally assure the Czar regarding the state of British feeling on the subject of the pending war. It is understood that King Edward will intimate his readiness to act as mediator regarding the Far East if the Czar so desires, and the Count will convey a personal message to that effect from the King to the Emperor.

RUSSIAN FLEET APPEARS

FOUR WARSHIPS OFF SOUTHERN JAPAN OTHERS WATCHING JAPS

Sounds of Firing Heard Off Shimone Peninsula and Also Off Port Arthur—Russians Capture a Japanese Major and Five Men in Corea.

London, Feb. 22.—The Morning Post's Chefoo correspondent says he learns tens of thousands of Japanese are advancing by forced marches from various parts of Corea on the Yalu and that heavy fighting is expected shortly. The Standard's Kiev correspondent bears that the Caucasus and Turkestan armies are to be mobilized. He adds that the rumor is not confirmed officially, but says it is true it can only be interpreted as a veiled threat against India in certain emergencies. The Tientsin correspondent of The Standard reports the attack by 500 Chinese "brigands" on the Russian post at Fuchow as probably an attempt to wreck the railway.

JAPS ABOUT PORT ARTHUR.

Port Arthur, Feb. 21.—Sounds of demoralizing firing at sea are heard almost nightly, and this morning firing was again heard. This is doubtless due to the attempted approach of Japanese torpedo boats, but nothing serious has developed. The garrison is in excellent spirits and is firmly convinced of the ultimate success of the Russian arms. The Novikoff prints a long article invoking historical precedents to prove the illegality of the Japanese declaration that coal and victuals will be treated as contraband of war. The paper describes Japan's attitude as based on presumption and urges the neutral powers to disregard it and not to refuse to supply belligerent ships with coal to carry them to their nearest home port.

RUSSIAN FLEET OUT.

Tokio, Feb. 21.—A telegram from Matsuy, a fortified town of southwestern Japan, reports that cannonading was heard on Saturday morning off Minomaki, on the northern part of the Honshu Peninsula. The crew of the Japanese steamer Tamagawayari, which has arrived at Minomaki, reports that the Japanese fleet, four warships, the latter abandoned the chase and retreated to the island, midway between Shimonoeki and Fusan.

WATCHING FOR JAPS.

Aden, Feb. 21.—The Peninsula & Oriental Company's steamer Mongolia encountered at noon on Saturday, 490 miles north of Aden, a Russian battleship and four torpedo boat destroyers. After the vain attempt of a destroyer to cut off the Mongolia, all the warships gave chase, but being unable to overtake her, they signalled her to stop. The Mongolia obeyed and a destroyer, after a close scrutiny, signalled "leg to be excused." The fleet is evidently hoping to capture Japanese ships.

BOHEMIA FOR RUSSIA.

Vienna, Feb. 21.—To-day at Prague, the capital of Bohemia, and one of the centres of the Pan-Slavist movement, a great pro-Russian demonstration followed. A special service was followed by the city officials and an immense crowd. High mass was celebrated and a special blessing invoked on the Russian army. Only the interior of the cathedral, parts of which date from the 14th century, was attended by the city officials and an immense crowd. High mass was celebrated and a special blessing invoked on the Russian army. Only the interior of the cathedral, parts of which date from the 14th century, was attended by the city officials and an immense crowd.

WIRELESS CALLED BACK.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 21.—The report that Admiral Wierens, who with his squadron has been awaiting orders at Jibuti, French Somaliland, had been instructed to abandon his voyage to the far east is confirmed. The Russian fleet is known here of the reported dispatch of the Baltic fleet to meet some of hostilities, and it is not believed such a movement is in contemplation.

RAISED WITHIN 2 MONTHS.

Chefoo, Feb. 21.—The Russian military authorities are pouring troops into the peninsula as fast as possible. All non-combatants are being sent to the interior, and every preparation is being made for a protracted siege. Nothing has transpired to the Japanese movements, but they declare Port Arthur will be taken within two months. Reliable information as to their plan of campaign cannot be obtained, but the greatest activity prevails.

SULTAN IS SO ANGRY.

Vienna, Feb. 21.—Recent demonstrations in Constantinople in honor of the grave displeasure of the Sultan will be suppressed, and the press has been ordered to observe strict impartiality.

KUROPAT TO THE RESCUE.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 21.—The appointment of General Kuropatkin, who was yesterday relieved of his functions

WAR BULLETINS.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—The cables are still absolutely silent with regard to the progress of the war, but there is a vague rumor of land fighting. As an instance, the Paris edition of the New York Herald's correspondent at St. Petersburg talks of A RUSSIAN REPULSE ON THE YALU RIVER, WITH A LOSS OF OVER 2500 LIVES. THESE RUSSIAN MORS ARE UNCONFIRMED AND FROM AN UNRELIABLE QUARTER.

ROME, Feb. 21.—Rumors of warlike preparations by Italy having been circulated, a semi-official communication has emanated from the government to the effect that stories of alleged armaments and of the movements of warships and troops for service abroad are entirely false.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 21.—It is understood that the Russian taken prisoners in the Chemulpo fight will be brought home under agreement with France, Great Britain and Italy. These men will henceforward be non-combatants. It is believed here that the Czar will exercise general supervision over the naval movements in the Far East.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 21.—A Russian correspondent of the Associated Press at Port Arthur reports that the steamer Shikha left Vladivostok Feb. 3 and arrived at Tushima (a Japanese island northwest of Nagasaki) Feb. 6. Here the steamer was seized, and without explanation, taken to Nagasaki Bay.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 21.—The ministry of finance has warned Russian merchant ships to remain south of Shanghai and to Japanese have a squadron consisting of one battleship, two first and two second-class cruisers and eleven torpedo boats. Of Amoy, China, for the purpose of intercepting merchant ships.

BRISTOL, France, Feb. 20.—The torpedo boat destroyers Pistolet and Meduse will leave here for Algiers on Wednesday. The destroyers Mousquet and Franchise and the cruiser d'Assas. All the warships will then proceed to the far east.

SEOUL, Feb. 21.—United States Minister Allen is endeavoring to bring all the American women and children from Northern Corea before hostilities actually begin. He has planned to assemble them temporarily at Pingyang.

ROME, Feb. 21.—According to the Agenzia Libera, the czar will go to the far east at the beginning of spring, to take command of the army.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—A squadron of warships passed this point at midnight last night, going in the direction of Suez. It is supposed to be Admiral Wierens's on his way from Jibuti.

SEOUL, Feb. 21.—Japanese fugitives, who were maltreated at Port Arthur, arrived at Chemulpo to-day, and the story of their ill-treatment has created a great excitement among the people there.

PARIS, Feb. 21.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says there has been appointed a commission of seven military and naval officers to censor all telegrams from the seat of war.

TOKIO, Feb. 21.—M. Takahashi, vice-president of the Bank of Japan, starts for America Feb. 24, on an important mission. Baron Kaneko accompanies him.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 21.—A despatch from Harbin, dated Feb. 20, says the railroad is in working order, and the Japanese who attempted to destroy the bridge over the Sungari River have been hanged. Bands of bandits, who have been observed near the Russian leadership, are being pursued.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Count Cassini to-day said Russia gladly and willingly favored the suggestion of the United States to localize hostilities, and "the highly prized friendly relations between the Washington and St. Petersburg governments have in no way been interfered with."

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 21.—Grand Duke Alexis, conversing at the Yacht Club, confirmed the report of the sinking of a Japanese cruiser and a Japanese torpedo boat at Chemulpo.

THOMPSON'S OWN STORY

ADMITS THE STUFFING OF BALLOT BOX BUT WAS NOT PAID FOR IT

As Controller Richardson's Organizer in Ward Four He Was Paid, But Wrong Acts Were Done Out of Friendship—Resigns From Secretaryship of Conservative Association.



Here is Sam Thompson's confession. It was given to The World Sunday night. The "fugitive" returning officer in the city, has never been out of it.

It will be seen from this interview that Sam Thompson does not corroborate what friends of his stated to The World and to others, as published in The Saturday and The Sunday issues, namely, that he would supply information connecting a prominent official of the Toronto Street Railway Company with the distribution of booties at the Palmer House on the evening following the election.

Arrangements have been completed between Mr. Riddell and Thompson's counsel to have him in court Monday afternoon or whenever he is wanted. Therefore it is not expected the warrant issued by Inspector Stewart's justice for his apprehension will be served. In any event Thompson remains under cover in the house of a friend, where he has been since he disappeared.

Sam Thompson's manner is that of a man making a confession; at the same time his explanations to The World as to just why he should have had a subpoena if he had so long to reveal do not bear the stamp of truth. According to the story now related by the fugitive, he knows nothing of crookedness beyond the pool booth in which he worked, and while admitting that he received about one hundred dollars altogether from Controller Richardson, he was not in consideration of any deal to stuff the ballot box. He denies any connection with a meeting at the Palmer House of interested parties the night following the election, and says if his brother Dave, a street railway employe, was there, he does not know of it. Dave denies emphatically that he was there.

Confesses to Stuffing Ballot Box. Sam Thompson admits that he stuffed the ballot box, that it was deliberate and that he put in bogus ballots for Controller Richardson, Steve Burns and S. Alfred Jones, not because of any money, but because he had just two had been kind to him, and the first had employed him to do his campaign work.

He says he expects to go to jail, but hopes to escape the penitentiary for his aged mother's sake, and says he is not understanding, but because he had been docked at Sasebo and had bottom cleaned. The battleship Shikha, which was injured on the eve of war, was repaired in time to participate in Admiral Togo's attack on Port Arthur.

Battleship Struck Bottom. On Feb. 9 she was returning to Sasebo, after the naval manoeuvres, and while changing her berth, struck bottom. Her accident was at first regarded as serious, and it was thought that Japan would have to defer war. The ship had been repaired, owing to the very balanced strength of Japan and Russia.

When docked it was seen that the hull was split, and repairs were effected in a few days. The accident was kept secret, and was generally thought that the ship had been damaged by a mine.

Not Paid for Crookedness. "I don't want to say that I was not paid for the crookedness I have done, but I know nothing of any body distributed to control the election, and every day I received by me was for work performed, to be paid to scrutineers or for refreshments. I have said this in justice to those who have been implicated as employing me as a plug for them."

"How did it happen to do this? I don't know—I can't exactly say. The first wrongdoing of my life was a year ago when my brother Thomas put me on the witness stand and told me to put part of them in one at a time during the day and had the others ready so that when I scooped out the ballots from the box on opening it I could slip them in."

"None of the other persons in the room appeared to suspect what I was doing. Durance knew, of course. I had made up my mind the night before to put in a few bogus votes for those who had been kind to me, if I had the chance."

Says Durance Knew of It. "I knew about how many persons had not voted before the poll closed, since I kept a close count. I thought I would drop in about as many ballots marked for controller as I could account for after the poll closed from those who had failed to vote. Then Durance wrote the names I picked out from the voters list. He knew what he was doing and agreed to all of it."

"The way the system was worked it was easy for us to do this, as it is for any election officers to do crooked work. I don't know of any other persons who were paid to do this."

FROZEN TO DEATH.

Aged and Rich Old Woman Found Dead by Her Bed.

Warton, Feb. 21.—What appears to be a case of death by freezing, or foul play, was discovered six miles west of here, at Oliphant, this morning. An old lady named Mrs. Cochrane was found dead by her bed, frozen stiff. For years the old lady has lived a secluded and quiet life in the woods. She was the possessor of a good bank account, but it was generally supposed she did not keep any of her wealth in the bank. The severity of the recent storm and her helplessness make it probable that she was the victim of little or no care in the house. An inquest will be held.

RUSHING TROOPS TO FIGHT

WHOLE ARMY MAY BE MOBILIZED HURRIED OVER LAKE BAIKAL

Within Two Weeks 100,000 Men Will Be Added to the 300,000 Already in Manchuria.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 21.—Count Kurstov, war governor of Irkutsk, has returned to his post to hasten the forwarding of the mobilization of the Russian merchant ships. It is reported here upon good authority, but the report lacks official confirmation, that all the steamers of the volunteer fleet are to be armed.

Military activity is proceeding on an ever-increasing scale, and all is in readiness for the mobilization of the entire Russian army should that become necessary. In a fortnight 100,000 additional troops will be in Manchuria. Three army corps of Siberian rifles have already been organized, and a fourth soon will be completed. There is also a brigade of Cossack artillery armed with excellent mountain guns.

Cossacks Thick There. Also the Japanese seem to be making Port Arthur one of their main objectives, military men here do not believe they will be able to effect a landing there. The entire country is held by a division of Cossacks, which was quietly moved to the far east some time ago. Other Cossack regiments are under orders to join their comrades.

Stories of privations suffered by the soldiers on the military trains going to the east are grossly exaggerated. Covered freight trucks have been converted into comfortable cars with stoves and bunks, each car carrying 40 men. Each man is allowed three-quarters of a pound of hot beef daily, besides the regular rations supplied from the special kitchen cars.

Gen. Valkoff is in command of the non-combatants' force at Harbin. Gen. Linovitch and Gen. Dragovitch are at Liaoyang (about half-way between Neuchang and Mukden). When the 10th Regiment is near Kinchow, the 9th Regiment near Liaochang and the 12th Regiment near Liaoyang. It is reported that from a simultaneous march toward Yalu River. While Major Gen. Pfuja is advancing from Harbin toward the Yalu he will at the same time be strengthening his centre and preparing to defend the railroad and the north gulf coast in force.

Much Artillery Moving. AN ENORMOUS CONSIGNMENT OF ARTILLERY IS BEING SHIPPED AND IT IS SAID WITHOUT HESITATION THAT THERE WERE NOT OVER 25,000 TROOPS IN MANCHURIA AND AT VLADIVOSTOK WHEN THE WAR BEGAN. THE ADMIRALTY HAS ASSURED THAT THE JAPANESE HAVE LANDED IN COREA ONLY.

Metal Ceilings, Skylights and Roofing. A. J. O'Rourke & Co., Queen and George Sts. Telephone No. 1725

"Highest Award" Office Systems. Here's an extract from a letter to the manufacturers of filing devices and office furniture, whose goods we have the control of for Toronto: "We take pleasure in advising you that at the Colonial Products Exhibition, held in Liverpool, we fitted up a section with your filing cabinets and devices and your filing systems were awarded the gold medal, the highest award. We are also advised that the cabinets, etc., exhibited will be purchased by the Exhibition Company and that we are to have the fitting up of their permanent offices for the year."

W. H. Muckle, General Cartage Agent 148 Lombard St. Tel. Main 780 and Main 148

DEATHS. BROOKS—At her late residence, Agincourt, on Thursday, Feb. 18th, Ellen, wife of George Brooks, aged 80 years. Funeral on Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock, at St. Andrew's Cemetery, Scarborough.

COFFEY—On Sunday morning, Feb. 21, 1904, at her late residence, 41 Maple Avenue, Rosedale, Madeline Alice Hughes, beloved wife of P. J. Coffey. Funeral Tuesday morning, at 9 o'clock, to the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sherbourne-street.

Please do not send flowers. LANNIN—On Sunday, the 21st instant, at midnight, at his late residence, 61 Huron Street, Thomas Lannin, printer, in his 68th year. Funeral will take place on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., at 2 p.m., to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Friends will please accept this intimation.

"MALTSE CROSS" INTERLOCKING RUBBER TILING The ideal floor covering. Noiseless, Parquet, Resilient, Waterproof. Large range of beautiful colors and designs. Manufactured by THE GUTTA PERCHA & RUBBER MFG. CO., of Toronto, Limited. ONE CENT

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Continued on Page 2.

GRAPHIC ON CANADA? (Canadian Associated Press Cable.) London, Feb. 22.—The Graphic, dealing with Canada's economic progress, says the report figures for 1903 are \$400,000,000, a surprising result in the case of a country whose population is less than 6,000,000. It is especially gratifying that the spirit of speculation reaching its climax in 1902 has subsided with beneficial results to the general economic situation.

LAKE FRENCH-CANADIANS. (Canadian Associated Press Cable.) London, Feb. 22.—The Times referring to the conciliatory work of the progressive party in Cape Colony, says the Dutch are now able to play the same equal part freely and joyfully taken in the great Dominion by the French-Canadian in Quebec.

Last Chance for Fur Robes. Good slight robes are becoming more scarce every year. The prices are, therefore, steadily advancing. The Dineen Company has concluded that they will dispose of their entire stock of these at once. This embraces even children's carriage caps, of which there is a very fine selection now on sale. To buy a robe at Dineen's to-day is to save money on next year's purchase.

FAIR AND TURNING COLDER. Meteorological Office, Toronto, Feb. 21, 9 p.m.—Comparatively mild weather has prevailed to-day from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces, whilst in Manitoba and the Territories it has been extremely cold again, with temperatures much below zero. Rain and snow have fallen in Ontario, but elsewhere the weather has been fair. The outlook for Ontario and Quebec is for a return to chilly temperatures. Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 28-44; Kamloops, 10-28; Calgary, 18 below -8 below; Qu'Appelle, -28 below; Regina, -14 below; Winnipeg, -10 below; St. Paul, -10 below; St. Louis, -10 below; Montreal, -4-32; Quebec, zero-21; Halifax, -10 below.

Probabilities. Lower Lake—Strong winds and gales from southwest; fair and turning much colder; snow; local snow storms. Georgian Bay—Strong winds and gales from northwest; fair and turning much colder; local snow storms. St. Lawrence—Light snow or rain, followed by northwesterly gales and a change to decidedly cold weather. Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf—Strong winds from east; at least to-day; westerly gales and a change to decidedly cold weather. Maritime—Strong winds and gales from south and southwest; rain or sleet; Tuesday much colder again.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS. Feb. 21. At. From. Chemnitz.....New York.....Bremen La Touraine.....New York.....Havre Philadelphia.....New York.....Hamburg Olympia.....New York.....Charleston New York.....Boston.....Liverpool New York.....Southampton.....New York Sydney.....Liverpool.....Boston Umbria.....Liverpool.....New York Australia.....Buenos Aires.....New York