

The Planet.

S. STEPHENSON - Proprietor.

Business Office 53
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28.

IN THE FAR EAST.

A contemporary has taken the trouble to summarize the story of the war scare in the Far East as told by the headlines in the newspapers. Here is the summary:

1. January 1. War cannot be long delayed.
2. Hayashi says war is almost past averting.
3. Diplomats regard war as inevitable.
4. Japan, "There will be war"; Russia, "There will not."
5. Japan will take immediate steps to secure her interests in Korea.
6. Russia refuses to retreat one inch.
7. War is near.
8. Japan will make one more effort to get the Czar to modify his demands.
9. Japan has called off all negotiations.
10. Japan may declare war if Russia doesn't recede.
11. There is no sign of war.
12. Japanese reply but one more step in direction of war.
13. Washington believes that war cannot be avoided.
14. Russia demands neutral zone in Korea; Japan refuses; crisis expected.
15. Wall street is betting on war.
16. Fear of war is dispelled.

And so the situation remains at present. Fear of war seems dispelled; and yet those who want to find signs of war in the not too distant future need not look in vain. A few days ago M. Pavloff, the Russian minister at Seoul, notified the Korean government that Korean brigands and even Korean troops in the northern part of the country had grown so bold that they were crossing the Yalu river and looting Chinese villages, and that unless their raids were stopped Russia would have to interfere by force. A day or two later we read that several detachments of Russian troops had been sent to the Yalu. Now the suppression of brigandage beyond her own borders is one of Russia's trump cards. She uses it over and over again to give her an excuse to go where she has no right to go. Sometimes, of course, there is real need of her intervention. But often, again, there is no need at all. It is even stated by reliable observers that Russia has deliberately refrained from suppressing the Manchurian brigands at a time when she put it out of the power of the Chinese to suppress them, in order to have an ever available excuse for remaining in military occupation of Manchuria "in order to maintain order." The declaration about brigandage, followed by the movement toward the Yalu, is therefore of a threatening nature. With the Japanese the situation is much the same. The other day the despatches told us that Japanese railway men on the Seoul-Pusan line had been attacked by Koreans, and also that a Japanese major-general and his staff had been sent to Korea, and that 12,000 Japanese soldiers had been landed at Masampo. It is, of course, impossible to tell whether these despatches are accurate, as the Japanese censorship is strict, and the reports come from Port Arthur, Chefoo and other unreliable sources. Nevertheless it may be accepted as certain that the first serious interference with Japan's railway operation or railway construction work will result in the occupation of Southern Korea by Japanese soldiers. The outbreak of the China-Japanese war came, it will be remembered, with a Japanese invasion of Korea to restore order. With Russian troops in the northern part of Korea, with Japanese in the southern part, and with unlimited possibilities of local disturbances at Seoul in the centre, the situation is anything but encouraging, despite the professed wish of the Czar for peace.

ANOTHER BLOW.

Says the Mail & Empire:—North Oxford did not elect the anti-Stratton candidate. It was not expected that in that fortress of Liberalism such a result would be obtained. But the constituency did nobly all the same. It has declared against the Ross government in tones that will be heard throughout the province. By the Mail and Empire it was pointed out yesterday that under a clean administration, with a policy that is Liberal, the Liberal majority, when a single candidate is running, would be anywhere from 2,000 to 2,500.

The figures for 1898 and for 1902 show how overwhelmingly large the Liberal vote is. In both of these years the party had two candidates in the field, and there was one Lib-

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al-Conservative nominee. The Liberals—so strong were they could afford the luxury of a contest within the party. There was thus a convention candidate and a non-convention candidate. The figures are striking. For they were as follows:

Pattullo (Lib.).....	2,838
Kaufmann (Ind. Lib.).....	1,815
Total Liberal.....	4,653
Montague (Con.).....	604
Liberal majority.....	4,049

Of course, it is difficult to determine what proportion of the majority of 4,049 was made up of votes that under other circumstances, as for example, the absence of the second Liberal candidate, would have gone to the Conservative. But we have here a huge majority adverse to the Conservatives, polled in good faith. Eliminate the second Liberal and we have this result:

Pattullo (Lib.).....	2,838
Montague (Con.).....	604
Liberal majority.....	2,234

In 1902 the Liberal vote was not so strong as in 1898, and the Liberal-Conservative vote exhibited a distinct gain. The record stands thus:

Pattullo (Lib.).....	2,254
Ross (Lib. and Pro.).....	1,150
Total Liberal.....	3,404
Muma (Con.).....	1,054
Liberal majority.....	2,350

Here again there crops up the difficulty of determining whether any, and, if so, how many, voters who voted for the second Liberal would have voted for the Liberal-Conservative had the second Liberal not been in the field. But whatever that figure might be, there is no question that it is small, and that a vast proportion of the votes given to the second Liberal would have gone to the first Liberal, Mr. Pattullo, had Mr. Ross not intervened. This is made plain by the action of the Government in persuading Mr. Ross to keep out of the contest of yesterday. Mr. Ross was not withdrawn to strengthen the Conservatives, but to "switch" the vote he would draw over to the Ministerial nominee. It does not seem unfair to assume that, say, a thousand of the Ross vote was Liberal. In that event the aggregate Liberal majority in the county

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would be 2,200. Such a majority ought to be scored by a Liberal candidate who has the fight to himself in North Oxford. Yesterday's election gives Mr. Munro, who had the monopoly of the Liberal position, a majority of 900 odd. This is a fearful decline. It is more than Liberal-Conservatives hoped for, and it is a much larger turn-over than occurred in Muskoka or even North Renfrew. Throughout the county the changes have been remarkable. There is a marked increase in the vote polled for the Liberal-Conservative candidate and a huge decline in that given to the Government nominee. The situation is emphasized in the city of Woodstock, where the Ministers made their final stand and presented their most earnest appeals. Woodstock in 1898 made this record:

Pattullo (Lib.).....	936
Kaufmann (Ind. Lib.).....	401
Total Liberal.....	1,337
Montague (Cons.).....	300
Liberal majority.....	1,037

In 1902 the city thus declared itself:

Pattullo (Lib.).....	890
Ross (Lib.).....	230
Total Liberal.....	1,060
Muma (Cons.).....	551
Liberal majority.....	509

Yesterday's vote in Woodstock gave Mr. Butler, the Liberal-Conservative, a majority of 34. The result is exceedingly satisfactory from the point of view of the friends of clean administration. It shows that the people are alive to the situation, and that the better elements among the Liberals are striking out against wrongdoing. A proportionate change in any constituency outside of North Oxford, which is abnormally Liberal, and where the party tie is exceedingly strong, would leave a candidate of the Ross Government completely stranded. With such a drop in the Ministerial strength as the old Liberal stronghold presents it is safe to say that the Ross Government cannot carry one other constituency in the province, save, of course, by the peculiar election processes, for which the Administration is celebrated.

THE CANADIAN IDEA.

Montreal Witness.

The organization of Canadian National clubs in several cities of the Dominion is an indication of the growth of a national spirit which is seeking utterance. The Toronto National club led the way by bringing together persons of all shades of opinion and inviting men of reputation and ability to speak on questions of public interest apart altogether from party politics. The success that attended these gatherings, the high tone of the addresses delivered and the attention these attracted in Great Britain and United States proved that the club had taken a good way of voicing, if not of enlightening, Canadian sentiment. The movement thus started received a great impetus from the Alaska boundary award. Clubs were organized in other cities, that at Ottawa coming rapidly into prominence through the speeches made at its meetings by men of high standing in public life. In every place and on every occasion the vibrant tone in every speech naturally is the assertion of the Canadian idea in connection with the present position and future destiny of the Dominion. Indeed, clubs formed on such lines could hardly be expected to welcome or even to tolerate anything else. According to the sentiment thus voiced, Canada's aspiration is to be, and remain, a separate, self-contained nation on this continent, independent of the United States, and allied on imperial lines with Great Britain and the other colonies and dependencies of the empire.

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One of the most ancient and reputable wholesale druggists in the city, while rebuilding on his old site, dug out of the foundation of the ancient house an old sign of "The Bell and Dragon." It had lain there for more than two hundred years, having been used on a prior building before the disasters of the Great Fire, and had fallen through into the general ruins. The peculiarity of the situation is that the firm had adopted "The Bell and Dragon" as their trade-mark before the discovery of this fine touched relic. This splendid old stone bas-relief is jealously preserved, and occupies a prominent place in the entrance of the Holborn branch of the firm.

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