

THE HERALD

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 JAMES MCISAAC
 Editor & Proprietor.

To Our Subscribers.

We are sending out statements of accounts for HERALD subscriptions up to Dec. 31, 1905, and we are most desirous that our friends should make remittances with as little delay as possible. As all our subscribers are aware, the system of payment in advance was adopted by the newspapers of this city a few years ago. All our subscribers have not lived up to the rule exactly and on our part we have not, up to the present, been very insistent on its enforcement; we have not been particularly exacting with those who paid during the year or at the end of the year. In order, therefore, to make amends for the past and to reconcile any extreme views of the matter, we wish to urge that our friends meet us in the spirit of compromise, in the same way as the plenipotentiaries are endeavoring to overcome their divergent contentions. We will thus present our case: We have not urged the advance subscriptions for the two-thirds of the current year already passed. Now, we wish our friends to compromise with us regarding the remaining third of the year, and to anticipate their usual time of payment by sending the money without further delay. In this way the system of advance payments would be fairly established by the end of the year, and after that could be worked out with very little difficulty. It will not likely make very much difference to the greater number of our friends whether they send us the money now or in three or four months time; but it will make a very great difference to us. By getting in our subscriptions now, we would be able to wind up our year's business much more satisfactorily, and could make our estimates and outline our course for next year. The amount of each subscriber's remittance will only be small; but the aggregate of all these means a great deal for us. It is on these small amounts we have to do our business. Apart from the principle of advance payment and any other reasons that we have advanced, our friends will readily understand how much more satisfactory and advantageous it is to pay now rather than at the end of the year. What is left to the end of the year is very often left much longer; and the longer it is left the more unsatisfactory the transaction becomes. Of course, our subscribers who always pay in advance will understand that none of these observations apply to them. We trust we have made our meaning in this matter sufficiently clear and that our friends will give the matter as much consideration as it deserves. We have reason to believe that a great number of our friends will give the matter attention the moment it comes under their observation. A disappointment in this estimate would be extremely disheartening. We shall await the result of this chat with our subscribers with much interest, and it shall be a pleasure to record in our next issues the manner in which our observations shall have been responded to. Please don't delay.

The War Is Over.

As will be seen by account of the proceedings of the Peace Conference at Portsmouth, terms of peace have been arrived at by the plenipotentiaries of the belligerent powers, and a treaty embodying the conditions agreed upon will at once be concluded. The whole world will be pleased to learn that this sanguinary conflict has come to an end and that white winged peace once more hovers over these contending nations. How far the President of the United States was instrumental in bringing about this happy termination of the conference it is difficult at present to

state; but there is no doubt he exerted himself most strenuously in that behalf. A conference of this kind is conducted in diplomatic fashion and the most unwavering and determined attitude regarding certain conditions are very often only apparent and assumed in the hope of securing better terms from the opposing party. Consequently, although Japan's plenipotentiaries appeared to be unyielding in their adherence to certain conditions of peace, their attitude after all may have only been for diplomatic reasons. In any case they now seem to have receded from the position first assumed by them and consented to every condition desired by Russia. Whatever may have been their motives all will rejoice in the knowledge that the matters in dispute have been so compromised as to ensure the conclusion of a peace treaty.

History of Prince Edward Island.

The History of Canada by G. U. Hay, Ph. B. D. Sc., St. John, with a sketch of the History of Prince Edward Island, by H. M. Anderson, is among the Canadian text books issued this year. It is published by the Copp, Clark Co. of Toronto, and is a volume of some hundred and twenty-five pages. At this writing we have only time to say a few words about the sketch of our Island history embraced in the volume. Miss Anderson's contribution is limited to twenty-five pages, and of necessity does not deal at any great length with many of the important phases of the history of our Province. It is most valuable, however, as it supplies a much felt want in our schools and will enable our young people to lay a good foundation for further explorations in Island history. The author leaves undecided the exact date of the Island's discovery and the name of the discoverer. Whether it was Cabbot in 1497, or Verrazano, or Cartier in 1534, Miss Anderson does not pronounce. In any event, she points out that the Island was discovered by some navigator early in Canadian history, and was named Isle Saint Jean. The natives of Isle Saint Jean belonged to the Abenaki and Micmac tribes of Indians. The author points out that our history naturally divides itself into two great periods: 1st, from the discovery by Europeans to 1763, and 2nd, from 1763 to the present day. She then subdivides the history into five great periods: 1st, under French rule; 2nd, under British rule from 1763 to 1800, when the name was changed to Prince Edward; 3rd, from 1800 to 1851 when responsible government was granted; 4th, from 1851 to Confederation in 1873; and 5th, from Confederation to the present day. The author shows that although fishermen from France visited the Island in summer and returned in the autumn, the first colonists came to the Island about the year 1719. These consisted of two families, one Matthew Turin, who settled at East Point, the other Francis Douville, who settled at St. Peter's. They were both fishermen from Normandy and had large families. In 1764 Captain Holland, surveyor of the new British possessions in North America came to the Island to commence his work. He landed at Fort Amherst, near Charlottetown Harbor. Under Captain Holland's supervision the Island was divided into 67 townships. Shortly after this 64 of these townships were disposed of by ballot in one day, in London, to favor of the Crown. This action of the Home Government involved the people of this Province in that most disagreeable and complicated matter known as the "Land Question," which very materially interfered with the advancement of the colony. This question was the chief topic of discussion in the first Legislature, and continued to be a burning question in every Legislature for a hundred years, till it was disposed of by the "Land Purchase Act of 1875." The struggles of the people against the proprietors during all this time are graphically described in Miss Anderson's sketch. Space does not permit us to review this history at greater length. All will welcome Miss Anderson's sketch as a valuable beginning of Island history.

Destroys Worms.

Mrs. John Lowe, New Germany, N. S., writes: I have given Dr. Lowe's Worm Syrup to my children with excellent results. They are fond of taking it and it acts perfectly, requiring no cathartic afterwards.

The Peace Conference.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 24.—The prospects of peace are desperate, but they are not hopeless despite the prevailing pessimism. There is still a chance, and the forces working for peace are continuing their labors. The president failed twice, but he is fighting on. The result of Ambassador Meyer's audience at Peterhof yesterday was unsatisfactory, but at least it was not a rebuff. It left the door open, and within an hour after the receipt at Oyster Bay of Mr. Meyer's account of his audience the president had sent a new appeal through Mr. Witte, who received it from Mr. Pierce about 3 o'clock this morning. The emperor had already in effect declined the proposed compromise offered by Japan. He had refused it because, under a disguise so thin that even a child would not be deceived, Japan offered to withdraw the article asking remuneration for the cost of the war on condition that Russia re-purchase from the military possession of Japan the northern part of Sakhalin at a fixed price of 1,200,000,000 yen—the estimated "frais de guerre." Every message received from Peterhof, including those that came early to-day, was inflexible upon that point. Had Japan not inserted the sum, had that been left for future adjustment, the proposition would have undoubtedly proved more palatable. The Associated Press is in a position to state that the divergence in the compromise as suggested by Japan at the conference, which was mentioned in these despatches last night, touched the very point. The president did not suggest any price or the fixing of a price, and it is believed, although this cannot be affirmed, that his latest efforts is to secure the consent of the emperor to agree to accept the Japanese proposition with the amount subject to future adjustment by an arbitral board or otherwise. According to the Japanese M. Witte has already offered to divide Sakhalin, if the re-purchase of Sakhalin was placed upon a purely business basis and the following lines from the authorized statement of the Russian position, given to the Associated Press last night, should be borne in mind:

"All that Japan does is to join the question of Sakhalin with that of a cash payment and to insist upon war costs under the name of purchase money. The transaction is fictitious and the terminology misleading. If what is proposed be in truth a purchase and sale it should be treated as such; and, therefore, should Russia decline to buy the territory, Japan should keep it and conclude peace on the basis of the concessions already made.

A FURTHER CONCESSION.

Japan, it is believed, would make the further concession suggested if Emperor Nicholas would commit himself to this solution. This statement is based upon the words of the Japanese authority most competent to speak. When asked if it was correct as reported, that the Japanese had said their last word and that all hope was over, he replied: "No, we have not declared our propositions of Wednesday was our irreducible minimum. We are not assuming a threatening attitude. That is not the way to make peace." But the plenipotentiaries themselves no longer control on either side. The negotiations have passed from their hands to their principals at Peterhof and Tokio. Most persistently the report continues to be circulated here that Emperor William has been one of the main obstacles to peace, that while ostensibly in sympathy with the president's efforts, he is advising Emperor Nicholas not to yield. The foundation for this belief is the fact which appears fully confirmed that M. Witte's instructions were made imperative and intransigent upon the question of indemnity and cession of territory after the Kaiser's interview with the Tsar in the Gulf of Finland. Beyond this no evidence is offered. It is significant that M. Witte made it a point tonight to express his disbelief in the report from St. Petersburg which caused considerable consternation here that Count Lamsdorf had authorized Reuter's agent to declare that Russia under no circumstances would pay a contribution either direct or indirect, or make a cession of territory whatever. M. Witte said he could not imagine that Count Lamsdorf would have authorized such a statement without informing him (Witte).

JAPANESE ARE FIRM.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 24.—According to competent Japanese authority, Baron Komura and

Mr. Takahira are opposed to the waiving of Japan's demand for reimbursement of war expenses. "In the conference the Japanese contention was that in conceding the ante bellum demands of Japan, Russia admitted either that she was beaten or that her attitude prior to the war was unjustified, and in either case Japan holds that Russia should pay the cost of the war. Japan feels that Russia's talk of 'saving her face' is hardly reasonable, claiming that her face was lost when she conceded the ante bellum demands, which constituted the real casus belli." Advice received by the Japanese mission from home say that the Japanese public opinion is not only bitterly opposed to further concessions, but favored even harsher terms than those originally presented. The Japanese people feel, and their feelings, it is said, will be respected by the government, that to weaken now would mean that Japan must re-open it out in a decade. "Better fight it out now, while we have an army in the field," they say, "than make a truce for ten years or more and then re-open hostilities."

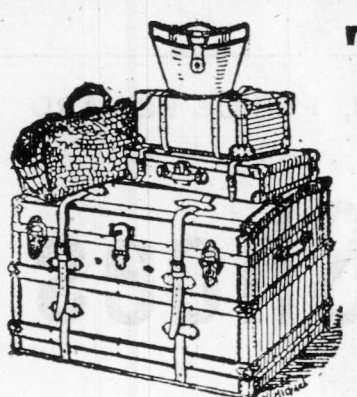
Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 25.—The peace conference seems headed straight for the rocks. Despite the fact that every question of principle involved in the quarrel between the two countries has been settled in favor of the victor, and that in reality only "words and money" still separate them, the negotiations seem to be on the verge of a final rupture. The air is filled to-night with gloomy forebodings, as superficially everything indicates that to-morrow's session of the conference will prove the "seance d'adieu." In the most positive fashion it is declared that no new instructions had reached M. Witte up to this evening which would permit him to entertain the consideration of the compromise proposition submitted by Baron Komura on Wednesday, and therefore unless Japan has a new proposal to make to-morrow, all that seems to remain is for the plenipotentiaries to meet, sign a declaration that the conference has completed its labors, shake hands and part as enemies, not as friends. But there are still unknown factors in the situation which in a twinkling might change the situation. The result of President Roosevelt's second appeal directly to Emperor Nicholas has not transpired, and the result of the pressure upon Japan to alter the form of her proposal by the elimination of the purchase price of the northern half of Sakhalin, is not known. But the indications on both scores are not reassuring. The press despatches from Tokio and St. Petersburg, read with the most intense interest here, indicate an intransigent attitude on the part of both governments. Yet both are anxious for peace, and only "words and money" bar the path. Probably it is not a matter of more than \$200,000,000. Yet the Japanese cling doggedly to the demand for their "pound of flesh." Their people at home insist upon it. The most competent Japanese authority who did not conceal his pessimism when asked tonight whether for the sake of peace Japan would yield further, replied: "Read the despatches from Tokio and draw your own conclusions." Nevertheless there is warrant for the statement that they are not as implacable as they appear, and from a conversation had with the Associated Press tonight the distinct impression was gathered that they would scale their money demand and use any "formula" which would be acceptable to Russia. It is not believed they propose to let the conference end to-morrow.

WITTE IS WAITING.

On the Russian side all pretense of claiming that M. Witte is any longer negotiating has been abandoned. He has gone to the furthest limit of his imperial master's orders. More he cannot do sincerely as he personally may desire to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. His position is a difficult and peculiar one. He is a statesman of large ambition. Liberal at heart, he is yet a servant of his sovereign. At the present juncture his role is described as like that of Mirabeau. He stands between the king and his people. He obeys his sovereign, but he wants his people to know where the responsibility for the fate of the negotiations must rest. At the same time he cannot himself take a firm stand against his sovereign. For this reason, and the authenticated history of this conference will bear out this statement, he preferred when first appealed to by President Roosevelt to have the latter go straight to the emperor with his suggestion. Though perhaps in full sympathy with Mr. Roosevelt to have himself appear to have supported it too ardently or even to have openly endorsed it against his instructions might, considering the influences about the court which are personally hostile to and jealous of him, have injured instead of bettering the chances.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 26 2 a. m.—Everybody in St. Petersburg is awaiting the developments of today and hoping that a compromise is being effected, the most likely basis of which, it is believed, would be no indemnity, but a payment for Sakhalin to be left for future adjustment. In fact, it was (Continued on 3rd page.)

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