

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

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NO. 11.

BLAIR STANDS FIRM; WILL SCORE THE G. T. P.

His Own Words Denying Story That He Would Withdraw His Resignation

Has No Thought of Doing So, and Within 48 Hours Date and Place of His First Public Campaign Meeting Will Be Announced--Story About Withdrawal Was a Fake Sent from Ottawa to Comfort Panic-stricken Friends of the G. T. Pacific.

Montreal, Oct. 24--(Special)--Mr. Blair gives the most emphatic denial, over his own signature, to the reports that he had withdrawn his resignation.

The following is from an extra edition of the Star published this evening: "Without any other reason, apparently, than to bolster up the drooping spirits of their workers and followers, the Liberals have been circulating reports in Montreal today that Hon. A. G. Blair had withdrawn his resignation of the position of chairman of the railway commission."

JAPANESE PREPARING FOR CRUSHING BLOW TO KUROPATKIN'S ARMY

There has been no resumption of fighting of general character on the Shinkai river. Both Russians and Japanese are entrenching their positions.

A scarcity of fuel is causing the soldiers great suffering since cold weather set in. St. Petersburg has been notified that the Japanese army confronting General Kuropatkin is receiving heavy reinforcements from the Port Arthur army and direct from Japan.

Japs Preparing for Crushing Blow. St. Petersburg, Oct. 25, 2:30 a. m. There is no news of immediate importance from the Far East tonight.

Reports that Japanese reinforcements are arriving, taken in connection with the enforced inactivity of the Russian forces on account of weather, are felt to be a grave factor in the situation.

Armies Entrenched 700 Yards Apart. With the Japanese Army (Gen. Oku) in the field, Oct. 22, 4 p. m., via Pusan, Oct. 24--The respective armies retain somewhat peculiar positions.

For five days the Japanese have not attempted to make the advance for which the Russians seem to be waiting.

The outposts and patrols of both sides are in close touch and there is occasional firing by the light artillery batteries.

FAKE "INTERVIEW" WITH STRATHCONA

LAURIER GOVERNMENT'S SUBSIDIZED PRESS ASSOCIATION SENT OUT FALSE REPORTS

High Commissioner Denies That He Ever Said That the G. T. P. Scheme Was a Benefit to Canadian Pacific, or That Borden, if Elected, Would Not Abrogate G. T. P. Contract.

Montreal, Oct. 24--(Special)--The Montreal papers tonight far surpassed any political demonstration ever witnessed in this city.

ANOTHER STATEMENT BY HON. MR. BLAIR

Ottawa, Oct. 24--(Special)--Hon. Mr. Blair was asked today as to the truth of the rumor that he had withdrawn his resignation as stated by La Patrie and he replied: "I have not withdrawn my resignation as chairman of the railway commission, nor do I intend to, and I have authorized no one to make a statement to that effect."

THOUSANDS AT BORDEN MEETING

The Greatest Demonstration Moncton Ever Saw Monday Night

COULDN'T HANDLE CROWD

Curling Rink Holding 2,500 Packed and Opera House Likewise--Three Bands and Torchlight Procession--Opposition Leader Riddles G. T. P. Deal.

Moncton, N. B., Oct. 24--(Special)--It is no exaggeration to say that the Conservative meeting here tonight far surpassed any political demonstration ever witnessed in this city.

The city was thronged with people from all sections of the county. Special trains were run from Sackville, bringing thousands of people.

The meeting was held in the Curling Rink which was far too small to hold the large number of people.

An overflow meeting was held in the Opera House, but this also was inadequate to accommodate those unable to gain admission to the rink.

The Conservatives had prepared for a large crowd but the demonstration was so far beyond anticipations that the matter of accommodation could not be neatly grappled with.

The Sackville contingent brought along two bands and the Moncton band also engaged for the procession which occurred.

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BRITAIN DEMANDS QUICK REPARATION OF RUSSIA

Foreign Office Acts Promptly on Baltic Fleet Outrage on Fishermen

It is Understood That Czar's Government Will Apologize at Once, and Other Amends Will Be Made When Admiral Rojestvensky is Heard From--An Act of War or Stupid Blunder.

London, Oct. 24--Great Britain today sent a long and urgent note to the Russian government, officially detailing the circumstances of the amazing and unexplained attack by the Russian second Pacific squadron during the night of Oct. 21, on British fishing boats in the North Sea.

The text of the note has not been given out, but it is officially stated from the foreign office that it contains the significant announcement: "That the situation is one which, in the opinion of his majesty's government, does not brook delay."

Meanwhile the conservative public press are remarkably unimpressed. As usual the jingo element demands war, and even in official quarters some go so far as to say that it may be necessary to stop the Pacific fleet pending settlement of the whole affair, though this extreme measure, it is believed, will not be necessary.

At the inquest at Hull today it was stated that one vessel, the Orain, was sunk and that four or five were more or less damaged. In the statement of the coroner to the jury that official said it was a question of very grave and possibly international importance, but it would be their duty to find who were the murderers of the dead men. After the identification of the bodies, the inquest adjourned to Nov. 2.

No Excuse for Outrage. London, Oct. 24--Sir Henry King, member for the central division of Hull, went to the foreign office today to insist on the representations of his constituents, among whom the most bitter feelings have been aroused by the Russian attack on the British fishing fleet.

"This is a most monstrous thing, a cruel outrage," said Sir Henry after he had been with his fishermen constituents to the foreign office. "For six hours the Russian sent a ship to watch the damage they had occasioned without assisting the victims. There is no possible excuse for the attack. The trawlers saw the squadron before midnight coming on in three lines with all their lights showing. The leeward line, which is believed to be composed of colliers, steamed right through the fishing fleet. When they had passed a signal flashed out from the leading ship of the port division, whereupon the two lines changed their course, bringing the trawlers on their starboard quarter and, without the slightest warning, a broadside was fired. The squadron then steamed off, leaving a ship to watch the results of the operations."

Britain Wants Quick Answer. London, Oct. 24--8:02 p. m.--An official statement was issued by the foreign office this evening, as follows: "The foreign office has been in communication with representatives of the fishing industry at Hull and Grimsby, and has obtained a full statement of the facts connected with the attack during the night of Oct. 21 by the Russian second Pacific squadron upon part of the Hull trawling fleet. Urgent representations based on this information have been addressed to the Russian government, and it has been explained that the situation is one which, in the opinion of his majesty's government, does not admit of delay."

Russia Expected to Apologize at Once. London, Oct. 24--Lord Lansdowne is expected to instruct Ambassador Hardinge late this afternoon.

No instructions have been received through the Russian embassy here and no communications are expected until Ambassador Hardinge has made his presentation at St. Petersburg. The Russian ambassador, Count Benckendorff will not be in London till near midnight, hence he cannot see Lord Lansdowne until Tuesday, when it is expected Minister Lansdowne will have translated his instructions. Beyond making apologies, however, it is pointed out at the Russian embassy that no explanation could be given until the squadron was heard from. Steps are on foot to get a communication to Rojestvensky, but some days may elapse before Rojestvensky can communicate with St. Petersburg. In the meantime only regret can be expressed.

Russian officials here are as much perplexed as to the cause of the firing on the fishing boats as are the British authorities, though they suggest it may have been due to extreme nervousness consequent on the reception of definite information that a Japanese attempt would be made on the squadron before it reached open waters.

The idea that can arise over the affair is scouted, but it is admitted that it will strain Anglo-Russian relations to a point where the diplomacy on both sides will be severely tested.

(Continued on page 3, third column.)

ROSS GOVERNMENT IN SORE STRAITS

Hon. Mr. Stratton Resigns, and Hon. J. M. Gibson Going Too.

Toronto, Oct. 24--Provincial Secretary Hon. J. R. Stratton has not yet handed in his resignation to the executive of the West-Quebec Liberal Association, although it is understood the resignation as a minister of the crown is already in the hands of Premier Ross.

Hon. J. M. Gibson is said to have declined to be interviewed. He sent out word that within a few months he would be out of the Ontario cabinet.

Col. Gibson, however, is understood to have consented to remain in the legislature as a private member.

100,000 Factory Fire. Orange, Mass., Oct. 24--A fire in the factory of the New Home Sewing Machine Company this evening caused a loss of \$100,000, covered by insurance.

Divorce Question. Boston, Oct. 24--An agreement on the divorce question was reached today by the house of bishops and the house of deputies of the Episcopal convention, after many days of discussion.

It will be hard for innocent party to marry again under the rule--matter only settled for three years--sessions will finish today.

Both Houses of Episcopal Convention Agree on Terms.

It is understood that the Russian government will apologize at once, and other amends will be made when Admiral Rojestvensky is heard from.