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JAPANESE DESTROY A RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP

Report of Fierce Engagement Between Fleets Outside Harbor of Port Arthur on March 18th---Rapidity of the Advance in Korea Has Surprised the Russians.

London, March 22.—A number of rumors are printed in the newspapers this morning, but they must be taken with great reserve.

The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent cables a newspaper report of the Japanese occupation of Port Arthur after a combined land and sea attack Saturday and Sunday. It is asserted that a division of Japanese landed on the Liao Tung peninsula on Saturday and engaged the Russians near Port Arthur, while the fleet bombarded from Saturday evening until Sunday morning. The same correspondent reports a sharp encounter at Chyong, on the Yalu river, about 30 miles northeast of Wiju, in which the Russians lost 600 in killed and wounded.

The Daily Chronicle's Shanghai correspondent hears from Newchwang that the Japanese have crossed Tatung pass, 40 miles from Hai Cheng, and that collisions have occurred with the Russians.

Reports from Seoul and Tokio are to the effect that Marquis Ito has arranged to lend $2,500,000 to Korea on easy terms.

According to the Standard's Tientsin correspondent China is appealing to the powers for an extension of a year in the period for the payment of the indemnity growing out of the Boxer troubles.

A correspondent at Tientsin, of the Daily Mail, reports that Kataoka, a Japanese merchant, but a Russian spy, has been assassinated, but that the Japanese authorities disavow any knowledge of the assassins.

The Morning Post's Hamburg correspondent says that Russia has purchased the Hamburg steamer Hafis, which is now at Vladivostock, for $250,000, and that the vessel's name has been changed to Alexeitrapani.

Japs Busy.

St. Petersburg, March 21.—Official advices report the concentration of armed Mongolians disguised as pilgrims at Vankaren, south of Lake Baikal and a few miles from the Russian frontier.

A telegram has been received from Medical Officer Trepoff, at Chita, Eastern Sibera, saying: "There are many cases of sickness here." This news causes some uneasiness, as reports from other places are uniformly to the effect that the health of the troops is good.

The following dispatch from Mukden, March 20th, was received to-day: "Gen. Zhilinski reports as follows: According to reports received from the frontier guards on the Eastern Chinese railway, everything is in order there. At Udyini station, Capt. Uksemoff, with 70 cavalrymen, have driven off a band of 100 Chunchuses (Chinese bandits). The occupation of the town of Anju and Ping Yang by the enemy's infantry and artillery is confirmed. An increased movement of the troops and transports on the road between Ping Yang and Anju is noticeable. Thirteen of the enemy's transports recently unloaded at Chinnampho. According to reports there have been no preparations for landing on the coast of Caoljao or opposite Kin Chow. All reports appearing in foreign newspapers of the landing of Japanese troops at different points on the coast are inventions."

The foreign office gives an absolute denial to the statement telegraphed from here that Korea is regarded as belligerent.

The statement that the Russian minister at Pekin has demanded the withdrawal of all Chinese troops north of the Great Wall is also incorrect.

In government circles there exists a strong belief that the question as to whether China will observe her neutrality undertakings will depend largely on the result of the first heavy land fighting. A big victory by the Russians, it is believed, will insure the quiescence of the Celestial Empire, but there are grave fears as to what might happen in the event of a signal Japanese success in the early days of the land operations. For the time being the situation appears to be satisfactory, and it certainly is much better than it was three weeks ago. The Pekin government has reiterated its professions regarding neutrality to Paul Lessar, the Russian minister, and has given him fair assurances in answer to his representations regarding the number of Chinese troops north of the Great Wall. The natives manifest a friendlier disposition than they did in the beginning of the war, but the Russians know the Oriental character as no other Europeans do. They understand how deep-seated is the hatred of foreigners in China, and the only prestige of the Russians is their strong arm. Russia's present plans are based on the appreciation of the supreme importance of the first land battle, and no fighting on a large scale will take place, if it can possibly be avoided, until the Russians feel morally certain that they can deal the enemy a crushing blow.

Ito Decorated.

Seoul, March 21.—Marquis Ito has been decorated with the order of the Plum Blossom, usually given only to royalty. United States Minister Allan and Japanese Minister Hayashi have received decorations of the first class of Pai Kuk. Minister Allan's decoration was conferred in recognition of his valuable counsel and long intimacy with the Emperor.

Marquis Ito has urged the gradual adoption of Korean reform measures, thus avoiding the confusion due to the precipitate measures of 1895.

IS IT TRUE?

Warships From Vladivostock Are Now Said to Have Reached Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The authorities are skeptical in regard to the report that a Japanese squadron has been sighted off the Port of Newchwang.

There is confirmation here of the report, purporting to come from London, that the Vladivostock squadron has reached Port Arthur.

THE MANDJUR.

Russian Gunboat Is Still Lying at Shanghai.

San Francisco, March 22.—Officers of the Coptic, just arrived, saw the Russian gunboat Mandjur lying in the river at Shanghai and report that her commander is Capt. Carter, born in the United States, but a Russian by naturalization. When ordered to leave Chinese waters, Capt. Carter emphatically refused and invited somebody to make him move. At last accounts he was still at Shanghai with his boat. A Japanese battleship and a cruiser flying the same flag passed out of the river while the Coptic was at Shanghai.

JAPS IN SIBERIA.

No Arrangement Suggested to Enable Them to Return Home.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—United States Ambassador McCormick has not been instructed by the state department, at the request of M. Takashra, the Japanese minister at Washington, to ask the Russian government what facilities will be afforded the 40,000 Japanese in Siberia to return to Japan. According to information received here, comparatively few Japanese are now in Siberia. Most of them left there just previous to or after the breaking out of the war. The United States embassy, which is charged with safeguarding Japanese interests, has thus far only responded to appeals of a score of Japanese coming from Siberia through European Russia. The last batch of twelve from Irkutsk was sent to Berlin on Saturday. Not one of them has been molested, but it is considered safer that the Japanese be passed beyond the region of possible danger. No appeals have been received from the few Japanese residing in St. Petersburg and other cities of European Russia.

NOT YET RECEIVED.

Protest Has Not Reached the Japanese Government.

Tokio, March 22.—The Japanese government denies the Paris report that France, acting on behalf of Russia, has protested to the Japanese government on account of the bombardment of the quarantine station on the Shan Chan Tao islands on March 10th. No protest on the subject has reached the Tokio government.

RUSSIA'S PROTEST.

Alleges That Japan Bombarded Quarantine Hospital on Islands Opposite Dalny.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The Russ, in an editorial to-day on Russia's new protest against the violation of The Hague convention in bombarding the quarantine hospitals on the Shan Caï Taio islands (opposite Port Daly), declared Japan cannot meet the charge by pleading ignorance of the character of the buildings or the islands, as the bombardment of unfortified towns and buildings is forbidden by the same convention, and adds that Japan's act was a flouting of all the powers signatory thereto.

"Who knows," continues the Russ, "what excesses Japan may go to in violating international law. The obligations assumed by her, the feeling of solidarity among the nations and the defence of the fundamental principles of humanity must compel the world, if not to-day, then to-morrow, to say to Japan: 'Thus far and no farther.'"

The editorial concludes with expressing the hope that Russia's protest will make an impression on the other powers

JAPS DID IT AGAIN.

Bombardment of Port Arthur by the Fleet—Movements of Soldiers in Korea.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The Emperor has received the following telegram from Alexieff:

"Lieut.-General Stoessel reports that at midnight of March 21st the Japanese torpedo boats were discovered by our searchlights. Our guardships and fort batteries opened fire upon them, the firing lasting 20 minutes.

"At 4 o'clock in the morning the attack was renewed.

"At 6.30 in the morning four of the enemy's ships appeared from the south, followed by the whole squadron of eleven ships and eight torpedo boats. Our squadron left the roadstead to meet the enemy.

"At 9 o'clock the enemy's battleships opened fire on Laio Tishin, after which they took up a position behind the rocky eminence of Liao Tishin, and bombarded Port Arthur."

A later dispatch from Viceroy Alexieff to the Czar says: "According to a supplementary report from Lieut.-General Stoessel, the enemy's fleet, consisting of six battleships and twelve cruisers, arrived about 9 o'clock in the morning. The fleet divided, the battleships and torpedo boats taking the position between Liao Tishin and Golubenaia Bar (Pigeon bay), while the cruisers formed up in two sections to the south and southeast of Port Arthur. At 9.20 the battleship Retvizan opened fire over the crest of Liao Tishin against the enemy's battleships, which replied by firing on the town. Meanwhile our fleet formed up in line in the outer roadstead. About 11 o'clock in the morning the cannonade slackened and the Japanese fleet, reunited, drew off slowly to the southwest, and at 12.30 had disappeared. During the bombardment five soldiers were killed and nine wounded. One soldier on the shore was bruised."

Another telegram from Viceroy Alexieff to the Czar gives Vice-Admiral Makaroff's report as follows: "At midnight of March 21st two of the enemy's torpedo boats approached the outer roadstead, but were discovered by the searchlights of the batteries and fired upon by the forts and by the gunboats Bobr and Otvajny. They were obliged to retire. A second attack was made at 4 o'clock in the morning by three torpedo boats, which were also repulsed.

"At daybreak three detachments of the enemy's fleet, consisting of six battleships, six armored cruisers, six second and third class cruisers and eight torpedo boats, approached from all sides. At 7 o'clock our squardon commenced to leave the inner harbor, the cruisers leading, with the Askold flying my flag, and the battleships following. The enemy's battleships approached Liao Tishin and fired 100 shells from their 12-inch guns at Port Arthur and 100 shells on the town. Our shells, fired at a range of 80 cables, were well placed. About 10 o'clock a Japanese battleship was struck by a shell and retired. We lost no men during the bombardment, which ceased at 11 o'clock, when the enemy's ships drew off without attacking our fleet."

Russians Withdrew.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The following dispatch has been received from Viceroy Alexieff dated Mukden, March 22nd:

"Gen. Mistchenkow reports that on March 17th our scouts approached Anju and observed on the left bank of the Chenchen river, opposite Anju, entrenchments made by the enemy. Up to that date the enemy had not appeared at Yong Pyen. It is supposed that there is one Japanese division at Anju and the remainder of the first army corps is at Ping Yang.

"In consequence of the report that two squadrons of the enemy had arrived at Pak Chen 200 of our cavalry were dispatched for the purpose of preventing the enemy from crossing the river. Our cavalry found three Japanese squadrons on the left bank of the river, but they withdrew towards Anju on the arrival of our detachment without firing.

"On the night of March 19th two dispatch riders encountered a Japanese patrol between Kasan and Chenchu. The patrol opened fire, but our dispatch riders escaped unhurt.

"According to a report 3,000 of the enemy's cavalry occupied Yong Pyen, March 19th. Material for pontoon bridges has been placed in readiness north and south of Anju."

The Russians are continuing preparations for a prospective siege of Port Arthur by rushing large quantities of supplies to that point. As many as 40 cars loaded with barley, chickens and other foods arrive there daily.

Europeans Killed.

London, March 23.—The Tokio correspondent of the Times says it is rumored that the Korean government yesterday decided to open Yongampho to foreign trade.

News from Newchwang that a south wind is dispersing the ice, points to the imminence of effective action, which, it is predicted, will at least reveal the carefully laid plan of campaign.

According to the Standard's St. Petersburg correspondent, the Russian government has just privately informed the Czar that since the outbreak of the war 100,000 troops have been forwarded to the Far East by the Siberian railway.

The Record of Trade warns the masters of British ships that they must not resist being stopped or searched by warships of either the belligerent countries for contraband of war.

The Daily Telegraph's Seoul correspondent, under date of March 22nd, reports the rising of a mob of Koreans against Japanese soldiers at Samung, north of Gensan. The Japanese dispersed the mob, killing five men and wounding twenty.

The Daily Chronicle publishes an unconfirmed rumor from Chefoo and Newchwang of the bombardment of Port Arthur on March 13th and 17th, a number of Europeans and many Chinese being killed.

The Standard's Shanghai correspondent says a recent arrival from Port Arthur declares the Russians recovered 15 Japanese torpedoes from the harbor which had not exploded, because in their excitement the Japanese forgot to withdraw the safety plug.

Cautious Makaroff.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—In the last attack on Port Arthur, beginning with operations by torpedo boats and ending with a bombardment by battleships and cruisers, dispatches to the Czar from Viceroy Alexieff, and private information, show that the Russians sustained no damaged and had only five soldiers killed and ten wounded.

All information which has reached St. Petersburg shows that the defenders of Port Arthur had taken seriously to heart the coup of the Japanese torpedo boats at the beginning of the war, and were maintaining a sharp look-out.

The Japanese torpedo boats were twice discovered sneaking towards the harbor under cover of darkness, but were driven off by a hot fire. The breaking of day prevented further torpedo boat engagements, and the Japanese admiral brought up his battleships and cruisers. The division of his fleet was for the purpose of making a cross-fire upon the harbor in the hope of destroying the town and of damaging the Russian ships. The bombardment of March 9th showed to the Russians the advantage to the enemy of the position off Liao Tishin, which Vice-Admiral Togo's ships took this morning, and Admiral Makaroff sought to minimize this advantage by so stationing the battleship Retvizan that her shells could reach the Japanese battleships. The fact that the Retvizan was used for this purpose proves the falsity of the report that her great guns had been removed and installed as a battery at Pigeon bay to protect the town. When the first official dispatches were received the belief gained ground that Vice-Admiral Makaroff had put to sea and that a naval fight had taken place.

Later advices established the fact that the admiral had simply gone with the undamaged portion of his fleet to the outer roads, where he could more effectively support the batteries, and at the same time take advantage of any weakness which might develop in the enemy's attack.

Fifty Men Dead.

Newchwang, March 23.—It is reported that the result of the bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese on Thursday was the dismantlement of two guns and the killing of 50 men.

JAPANESE CASUALTIES.

Furious Engagement Between the Fleets Off Port Arthur—Battleship Sunk.

Tokio, March 23.—A special dispatch from Moji says the Japanese fleet made another attack on Port Arthur on March 18th, bombarded the city and its defences, and fought a furious engagement with the Russian fleet outside the harbor, destroying one Russian battleship.

Seven Japanese casualties are reported. There is no information concerning the Japanese fleet's condition.

The navy department has not been advised of this engagement, but evidently expect news.

This is the first announcement of an engagement off Port Arthur on March 18th. Special dispatches received in London this afternoon contained details of an engagement, but give the date as March 22nd, which probably is correct.

TUESDAY'S BOMBARDMENT.

The Russians Says Fire From Jap Fleet Did Little Damage.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—1.17 p. m.—Further details of yesterday's attack on Port Arthur are expected during the day, but nothing in the way of private or newspaper dispatches about the engagement have been received up to the present. According to the information there now exists a complete embargo upon newspaper dispatches direct from Port Arthur.

The military authorities seem to manifest no displeasure at the Japanese tactics yesterday. On the contrary they claim that such bombardments wear out the guns and machinery of the ships and waste ammunition without compensating advantages. They point to the small damage at Santiago by the American fleet as proof of their futility. From the positions taken by the Japanese the latter could not see either the town or the batteries. The range was from six to eight miles with a high angle of fire and precision was impossible. Although the general target was large, only a lucky chance should really damage the batteries or ships.

So far as known the Japanese accomplished nothing yesterday. On the other hand, the Russians had better luck, a shell from the battleship Retvizan, which was firing over the hill, landed on one of the Japanese battleships.

Of course it is admitted that these pot shots are trying to the garrison.

Vice-Admiral Makaroff, the naval commander at Port Arthur, is being commended for his self-restraint in not risking his ships in an engagement with the enemy.

A prominent Russian admiral explained to the correspondent of the Associated Press how absolutely essential conservatism on the part of the Russian naval commander at Port Arthur was at present. He said: "If Admiral Makaroff, whose disposition would be to go out and meet the enemy, should give battle upon the approach of the Japanese and defeat them, his victory would be fruitless, as necessarily it would be purchased by some injuries to ships and our lack of adequate docking facilities at Port Arthur would render it impossible to refit them, whereas the Japanese have ample docks in which to repair their vessels."

The feeling here is that the Japanese tactics are preliminary to a landing on the peninsula in an attempt to cut off Port Arthur, simultaneously with a general bombardment and commencement of a siege. For this the Russians declare they are fully prepared. During the last ten days a general shutting down upon newspaper telegrams from the Far East has been noticeable. This is owing to the increased precautions to prevent the enemy from gaining news of the movements of Russian troops.

BUSY ON LAND.

Advance of Japanese Has Been More Rapid Than Russians Expected.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—Admiral Togo's activity at Port Arthur is being emulated by the commander of the Japanese forces in Korea. The advance of the Japanese shows that they are losing no time, and that they are more rapid than the Russians expected. Nevertheless, the fortification of Anju shows the Japanese operations are accompanied by all proper military precautions.

So far as the Russians are concerned they have no intention of attacking Anju, but the presence of the five thousand or six thousand cavalry men under General Mitchenkow will be to harass and retard the Japanese in every way possible.

The authorities here believe that it will be only a matter of a short time now when active land operations will begin.

JAPS AT PING YANG.

Numbers Are Arriving at That Point—Correspondents Return to Seoul.

Washington, March 23.—The only direct information touching the progress of the war in the Far East that has reached the United States state department within the last three days came to-day in the following cablegram from United States Minister Allan, dated Seoul, to-day:

"Japanese forces stopped a specie caravan en route to the mines on this side of Anju. Miners on this side are not allowed to proceed to the mines.

"The newspaper correspondents have been sent to Seoul from the north. The censorship is very strict.

"Japanese forces are arriving at Ping Yang after a fortnight of marching."

THE MYKADO'S CAVALRY.

Reports to St. Petersburg Says They Cannot Keep in Touch With Russians.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—4.35 p. m.—According to the government's reports, the Japanese cavalry seen north of Anju, Korea, this week, cannot keep in touch with the Russians.

The military organ says the occupation of Anju, lying at the juncture of the best roads leading to Wiju, Seoul, Gensan and Kirin, afford a strong position as a screen to the movement of troops from Ping Yang, but much of this natural advantage has been lost by lack on the part of the Japanese of mounted skirmishers.

BUILDING FORTIFICATIONS.

Russians Preparing to Resist Japanese Attempt to Land on Liao Tung Peninsula.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—The correspondent of the Novi Krai, of Port Arthur, who is proceeding to the Yalu river, writes that he saw crowds of Chinese coolies throwing up earthworks on the frowning, impregnable heights at Kin Chou, north of Port Dalny, showing that the Russians are determined to resist the Japanese attempt to land on the neck of the Laio Tung peninsula.

The correspondent adds that the Chinese officials, who had invariably made official calls on the occasion of the Russian and Chinese New Year, failed to do so this year, believing that the Japanese are going to drive out the Russians. But they take a different view now on account of the failure of the Japanese to rush things, as evidenced by the fact that all the native pack drivers are carrying Russian flags.

SOLD INFORMATION.

Capt. Irkorff, Reported to Have Been Shot, Is in Prison.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—The statement that Capt. Irkorff, of the Manchuria commissariat service, was recently summarily court-martialled and shot as a spy is incorrect. The war office discovered that he had sold information in connection with the quartermaster's department to Lieut.-Col. Akasabi, who was military attache of the Japanese legation here, and he was dismissed from the army. He has now been arrested, and is awaiting trial. It is officially announced that the information he sold was of great importance.

THE CHEMULPO FIGHT.

French Official Report Says United States Commander Did Not Join in Protest.

Paris, March 23.—The foreign office here has received details of the bombardment of Port Arthur on March 21st and 22nd, similar to the St. Petersburg official report, and also a mail report of the Chemulpo engagement, detailing the action of the foreign commanders and the non-participation of the commander of the United States gunboat Vicksburg in the protest against the attack on the Variag and Korietz.

WILL HOLD KOREA.

Japan's Preparations Are Being Pushed Forward—Advice to Government.

London, March 23.—The Seoul correspondent of the Times says that with deprecating precipitancy in administrative construction Japan recommends that Korea shall gradually eliminate foreign advisors of the government and appoint no more for the present. Many of the foreigners, who are mostly French, occupy advisory positions with emoluments aggregating $100,000 annually, and half of these posts are absolute sinecures.

The Japanese are displaying great vigor in the construction of a light railway to Ping Yang and other strategetic projects, according to the correspondent, who says that as an evidence of her plans, Japan is preparing for the possibility of military reverses in Manchuria, but that whatever happens she intends to hold fast to Korea. Should she fail to expel the Russians from Chinese territory and be compelled to defend the Korean frontier, the existence of a railway in the rear running to a point within ferrying distance of Japan would be of inestimable value.

Japan has 3,000 engineers working on the railway. One hundred miles of material obtained from unused lines in various parts of Japan are now awaiting shipment to Ping Yang. This scheme was designed to be completed by September next, and the road will afterwards be made permanent and extended to Wiju.

REITENTEN'S TASK.

Ordered to Capture Japanese Battleship and Two Cruisers and Take Them to Vladivostock.

Paris, March 23.—The Echo de Paris correspondent at St. Petersburg says it is rumored in naval circles there that Captain Reitenten's Vladivostock squadron has been ordered to overtake, at a certain port in the Pacific, the battleship and two cruisers bought from Chili by Japan, and to return with them to Vladivostock.

The correspondent says it is also rumored that Emperor William of Germany has refused to accept three cruisers built at Kiel and Stettin, on the ground that they did not conform to the terms of the contract, and that Russia is negotiating for their purchase.

The Russian general staff, the correspondent says, estimates that the number of Japanese troops landed in Korea does not exceed 75,000.

ALLEGED SPY.

Committee of Japanese Representatives to Investigate Charge Against Member of Parliament.

Tokio, March 23.—The House of Representatives to-day appointed a committee of eighteen members to investigate the charge that "Teisunke Aki Yama, a member of the parliament, is in the employ of the Russian government.

Aki Yama is the publisher of the Nirokushitoun, a Tokio paper, which has been bitterly assailing the government, particularly upon its financial policy. It has also charged the government with having forced capitalists to subscribe to the war bonds recently issued, and has predicted that a second loan will prove a failure. A local prosecution resulted in a decision yesterday ordering the permanent suspension of the publication and the imprisonment of the signatory for four months. The case was subsequently appealed, and both Aki Yama and his friends vigorously denied the charge that he is a spy. The hearing before the committee and the discussion of the question in the House promises to be exceedingly bitter.

ANOTHER CONFLICT.

Jap Killed in Brush Between Opposing Outposts.

Seoul, March 23.—A brush between the opposing forces has occurred at the outposts north of Anju. One Japanese was killed.

NOVEL CONFISCATED.

It Deals With German Military Matters and Proceedings May Be Taken Against Author.

Berlin, March 23.—"First Class Men," a military novel on the pattern of Lieut. Ryelson's book, "A Little Garrison," which related instances of the abuse of soldiers, was confiscated in the Berlin bookstores to-day. It is supposed that proceedings will immediately be initiated against the author of the book, Count Wiolff Baudisin.

The Socialists in the Reichstag recently taunted the minister of war with inactivity in this case, saying that every child in Berlin knew that the book referred to the elite Fusilier Guards regiment, the officers of which are depicted as immoral, corrupt, and despicable.

Some doubts are expressed regarding the wisdom of the action taken to-day as the book is described as coarse and clumsy, full of exaggerations, without the slightest literary pretensions, and consequently not worth notice. It is supposed that Count Baudisin will try to establish the truthfulness of his charges, in which event the case will doubtless surpass Lieut. Ryelson's book in public interest, since the Fusilier Guards are quartered in Berlin, while the scandals alleged in "A Little Garrison" took place in a frontier town.

TWO TRAGEDIES.

Man Killed His Wife and Daughter and Committed Suicide—Murder by Negro Janitor.

El Paso, Texas, March 23.—Because his wife, from whom he obtained a divorce a week ago, refused to remarry him or permit him to take their children to St. Louis, where he had secured employment, Max Vandervalt yesterday shot and killed her and their daughter Cora, aged five years, mortally wounded another daughter, Eleanora, and then blew out his own brains.

Instantly Killed.

Boston, Mass., March 23.—Emanuel E. Burnet, a negro janitor, shot and killed his wife Mattie, aged 26, to-day. Burnet left his wife at home during the night and requested her to remain until he returned. She disobeyed him and he found her at a friend's house. He called her to the doorstep and fired five bullets from a revolver, which killed her instantly. The janitor was arrested.

MINISTERS MAY RESIGN.

Opinion Prevails in Paris That French Cabinet Will Shortly Give Up Reins.

Paris, March 23.—The belief steadily grows that the Combes ministry may not be able to weather the recent minor reverses, and it is even said in high quarters that a culmination of the crisis is likely to come next Friday, with the retirement of Marine Minister Pellstan, and probably all the members of the present ministry.

The naval inquiry committee is expected to make its report on Friday, and this probably will bring on an issue in which the strength of M. Pellstan and the ministry will be tested.

President Loubet is said to be prepared to invite M. Millerand or M. Doumer to form a new ministry in the event of the fall of the old cabinet.

The belief continues that M. Delcasse will retain the portfolio of foreign affairs if the ministry is reconstructed.

THE LITHOGRAPHERS.

Nearly Ten Thousand Men Reported to Be Locked Out.

New York, March 23.—It is asserted by President Pritchard, of the Lithographers International Protective and Beneficial Association, that fifteen large firms throughout the country have decided to employ members of his association, and end the lockout in their plants. There are nearly 10,000 workmen locked out in various parts of the country on account of the refusal to sign the employers' arbitration agreement.

POLE VAULTING.

Stanford Athlete Crossed Bar at Twelve Feet and Three-Quarters of an Inch.

Stanford Univeristy, Cal., March 23.—Norman Dole, a Stanford track athlete, yesterday broke the world's amateur record for the pole vault, crossing the bar at twelve feet and three-quarter inches, one and one-quarter inches above the world's record now held by R. G. Clapp, of Yale. As the record was not made in a regular inter-collegiate meet it cannot be recorded.

THE ST. LOUIS FAIR.

St. Louis, Mo., March 23.—The organization of the concessionaries at the World's Fair have asked the officials to reduce the price of admission one half after 6 o'clock during the exhibition period.

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JANE HILL.

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