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VICTORIA, B. C., THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1905. TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

\$2.00 PER YEAR, TO OTHER COUNTRIES, POSTAGE PAID. PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

BIG FIRE SWEEPS OVER WHITE HORSE

Two Blocks of Business Houses and Hotels Completely Destroyed—Freight Sheds Escaped—Damage \$226,500.

(Special to the Times.)
Vancouver, May 23.—White Horse was today the scene of a disastrous fire, the total loss being estimated at \$226,500.
The fire broke out early this morning. All the hotels and business houses for two blocks were burned.
The freight sheds were not burned. The estimated losses are:
Taylor & Drury, \$20,000.
Seward's grocery, \$12,500.
F. McLennan, hardware, \$15,000.
Benett news and bookstore, \$10,000.
Windsor hotel, Mr. Racine, \$25,000.
Jewellery store and drug store, in the Windsor block, \$10,000.
Whitney & Pedler, general store, \$50,000.
White Horse hotel, \$20,000.
Mr. Nicholl's drug store, \$5,000.
Captain P. Martin's grocery, \$10,000.
Unsworth's hardware store, \$9,000.
Hotel Grand, John West, \$15,000.

P. Burns's shop and cold storage plant, \$25,000.
Total, \$226,500.
White Horse is the western terminus of the White Pass & Yukon route, and is one hundred and eleven miles from Skagway. It has an office of the Dominion government telegraph. Among other important buildings are the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Church of England and several hotels.
Being an important shipping point it has also large wharves and warehouses. It became prominent during the Klondike excitement.
The fire at White Horse directly interested Victorians as several of the wholesale business houses of this city had stock en route to Dawson, and which it was feared might have been destroyed. It was therefore with a good deal of satisfaction that it was learned that the warehouses and freight sheds were not included in the places destroyed.
R. P. Rithet & Company received a message to-day announcing that Capt. Stewart's general supply store was burned. The loss is estimated at \$15,000. The message also gave the information that Taylor & Drury's stock had been destroyed.

RAILWAY TERMINUS AT KAIEN ISLAND

THE MINISTER HAS APPROVED OF CHOICE

Grand Trunk Pacific's Western Port Will Be Short Distance South of Simpson.

Ottawa, May 23.—The Minister of Railways has approved of the Grand Trunk Pacific terminus on the Pacific coast at Kaien Island, a short distance southwest of Port Simpson.
Hon. Mr. Emerson has refused to sanction the expropriation of any tract of land for terminals either on the Pacific or at Fort William and Port Arthur, Lake Superior. He merely approves the location of the line to these points, and the company will have to go before the railway commission and get whatever lands is necessary for station, ground, etc.

The New Governor.

W. W. B. McInnes will stay here a couple of weeks familiarizing himself with Yukon work at the interior department. He will afterwards leave for the West and stay a week at Victoria closing up his business before going to Dawson. He expects to be in Dawson to celebrate Dominion Day.

STATE INSURANCE SYSTEM.

Proposal Has Been Submitted to Russian Minister of Finance.

St. Petersburg, May 23.—The Novovremya says a project has been submitted to the minister of finance for the creation of a state system of life insurance to take the place of private companies on the ground that the system offers greater security to the policy holders. There has been more or less scandal in the past connected with administration of private Russian insurance companies, which has resulted in great advantage to the few foreign companies doing business in Russia.

TRADE OF SIBERIA.

Britishers Are Being Forced Out of a Promising Market.

London, May 23.—The board of trade today issued an exhaustive report made by Special Commissioner H. Cook on the trade of Siberia, in which British traders are again taken to task for allow-

GIRL REMANDED.

Case of Josephine Carr Stands Over for a Week—Proposed Line From Moose Jaw.

Toronto, May 22.—Thirteen-year-old Josephine Carr was arraigned before the police court at noon today on the charge of murdering Mrs. Murray's baby. The session was practically private, being in the children's court. The child was not asked to elect or plead. She was represented by counsel. She was a passive spectator of what took place and appeared scarcely interested. She was remanded to the children's shelter for one week. She will remain there until her preliminary hearing. J. J. Keelo, superintendent of neglected children, urges her committal to the girls' industrial school until she is twenty-one years of age. Chief Coroner Johnston thinks the baby died of exposure rather than violence.

A Transfer.

Montreal, May 22.—It was stated this morning that the Dominion Textile Co. had, with the exception of a few details, completed arrangements to take over the Montreal Cotton Company. The question of price seems, however, not to be finally arranged.

Will Erect Mills.

Montreal, May 22.—J. Westley Allison and G. B. Waldron, of this city, secured possession of the charter of the Canadian Iron Plate & Sheet Steel Co. of Toronto, and with a number of American capitalists will erect mills at Morrisburg, Ont., securing their steel requirements from the Dominion Steel Co. It is expected the new company will be able to control the Canadian market.

Instantly Killed.

London, May 22.—While at work on the Grand Trunk bridge at Hyde Park this morning, W. J. Plante was struck by a jigger and instantly killed. The jigger struck his neck, breaking it.

New Flour Company.

Winnipeg, May 22.—Another big milling enterprise is contemplated here. Patrick & the Kelly Milling Co., of Brandon, and McGaw, of Godfrey, Ont., having organized into the Royal Canadian Flour Mills Co. They will spend \$250,000 to erect a plant at St. Boniface if exemptions are granted, and will erect a 4,000 barrel mill.

Accidentally Shot.

Clear Springs, Man., May 22.—Kathleen Anger was accidentally shot in the arm by a rifle which a boy was playing with at home.

Proposed Line.

Moose Jaw, N. W. T., May 22.—Mr. Seymour, secretary of the board of trade, has received a letter from Mr. Williams, Winnipeg, containing the report of the C. P. R., containing the information that the president has recommended that a survey be made of the proposed line from Moose Jaw to the elbow of the Saskatchewan, as the road will then open up a large district of good farming land tributary to the city.

BOXER INDEMNITY.

Powers Have Protested Against the Russian Proposal Regarding Payment.

Tientsin, May 23.—The settlement of the Boxer indemnity question has been delayed by the action of the Russo-Chinese bank. Russia has chosen to receive her portion of the indemnity in silver and the Russo-Chinese bank is endeavoring to obtain payment in Shanghai, at the London price of silver, instead of the price at Shanghai, thus avoiding extra charges. If China consents the bank will secure an advantage amounting to one per centum.
The powers have lodged a protest against the proposition, and it is considered probable that the Russo-Chinese bank will not be successful in its negotiations.
Nating, the governor of Peking, representing the board of revenue, did in fact consent, but his consent was not ratified. If China weakly assents the settlement of the indemnity will be prolonged indefinitely owing to the fact that similar advantages will be demanded in other quarters.

WILL NOT YIELD.

Chicago Express Companies Refuse to Recede—Strike is Spreading.

Chicago, Ills., May 23.—The teamsters' strike today threatens to assume proportions that will render a call for troops necessary and at the same time new hopes of a peaceful settlement have developed. While the strike grows, peace is still more in the balance. The express companies seem to hold the key to the situation, but hopes based on these companies may be elusive, for in spite of many rumors to the contrary the emphatic statement is made that they will not yield an inch.
The agents of the express companies were expected to be represented at an adjourned conference between the employers and the teamsters, which was scheduled for today.

FAMOUS FAT MAN DEAD.

St. Louis, Mo., May 23.—John Stewart Crossy, known throughout the theatrical world as C. Stewart, one of the "Two Johns," the famous fat men of the stage, is dead at the home of his son, Dr. Butler Crossy. Mr. Crossy was 51 years old and was born in Dublin, Ireland.

WINNIPEG NOTES.

Winnipeg, May 23.—A unanimous vote was given on Monday by Indian Head ratepayers to spend \$150,000 in building lighting, waterworks and sewerage systems.
The Menonites have decided to build a \$200,000 school at Altona to bring the centre of education on the reserve.

HOUSE ADJOURNED BY THE SPEAKER

BUSINESS INTERRUPTED BY LIBERAL MEMBERS

Disorderly Scene in the House of Commons—Colonial Secretary Refused a Hearing.

London, May 22.—The sitting of the House of Commons today was marked by scenes of the wildest disorder, growing out of a motion by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to adjourn the House that he might discuss the charge against the Premier of having violated his pledge not to deal with the subject of colonial preference without first appealing to the country. Alfred Lyttleton, secretary of state for the colonies, rose in reply to the Liberal members, but the opposition shouted down his attempt to speak, even after the Premier had demanded a hearing for the secretary. Finally the Speaker, after he had exhausted every effort to quell the turbulence, put into force, for the first time, a new rule empowering him to adjourn the House in case of grave disorder.

The matter came up at the afternoon sitting, when Premier Balfour, replying to questions on the subject, said he did not consider himself pledged to inaction in regard to colonial preference, except in so far as parliament has concerned. He reiterated that the government did not intend to deal with the fiscal question in the present parliament. The matter of colonial preference was then submitted to a colonial conference in 1906.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, charged Balfour with violating the pledge he had made in his Edinburgh speech and moved the adjournment of the House to discuss the matter.
The debate on the motion came up at the night session and was marked by disorder. The Liberal leader demanded a plain answer from Premier Balfour, and Mr. Balfour, in reply, said that the colonies rose to reply. The members of the opposition drowned the efforts of the secretary with cries of "Balfour, Balfour!" After continuing for about ten minutes, Mr. Lyttleton sat down.

After several members had failed to secure a hearing, the Premier rose, and a temporary adjournment was ordered. Mr. Balfour said he thought it highly improbable that he should be immediately expected to follow the leader of the opposition. He said he had known the opposition to refuse to hear a minister, and he insisted that the House should hear Mr. Lyttleton as otherwise the dignity of the House could not be maintained.

Mr. Lyttleton again attempted to speak, but the disorder was renewed. Finally the Speaker said it was clear that the scene would continue, and he would therefore adjourn the House under the rules empowering the Speaker to take such action in cases of such grave departure from decorum.

The Speaker had been unable to secure even a semblance of order; the constant howling lasted over an hour. The action of the Speaker and the scenes in the House created a tremendous sensation in the lobby.
The galleries were filled with peers and other distinguished persons, who gathered in the House expecting to hear an interesting debate on the fiscal question.

SALT SPRING ISLAND NOTES.

(Special Correspondence of the Times.)
An enjoyable evening was spent at W. Wain's house last Tuesday. After a large number of friends had arrived dancing commenced and was kept up to a late hour. Excellent music was rendered by Mr. Whims and E. McFadden during the evening.
The Methodist church at the Central Settlement is being painted by J. Shepherd and W. Mount. Others are also giving their assistance.

POLITICIAN SHOT.

Prominent Republican Killed by Unidentified Man While Entering His Office.

New York, May 23.—A special to the Herald from Savannah, Ills., says: "Daniel S. Berry, a prominent attorney and Republican politician, was shot and instantly killed by an unidentified assassin while entering his office this (Monday) morning."
"Two bullets from a revolver entered his body, one passing through his head, the second lodging in his arm. The murderer escaped."

Twenty persons were injured, one was man critically, and several of the others being badly hurt in a rear-end collision on the New York elevated railway on Monday.

that a colonial conference will meet in London early in 1906.

The Liberal papers this morning interpret Premier Balfour's remarks on the subject in the House of Commons yesterday as showing that some sort of compact has been arrived at between him and Joseph Chamberlain to defeat the dissolution of parliament until next year.

Mr. Chamberlain himself dined with his supporters last night. He remained in the precincts of the commons, but never entered the House during the scene.

The Coasting Trade.

London, May 22.—The action of the United States in excluding foreign vessels from the coasting trade in the Philippine Islands after July 1st, 1906, was discussed in the House of Lords today.

Lord Muskery (Conservative) asked for further information regarding the negotiations between Great Britain and the United States, Germany and Spain in regard to the exclusion of British ships from the Philippines, Marshall and Canary islands, and also whether Great Britain would defend the water frontage of the British concession at Hankau, China, for British ships.

Foreign Secretary Lansdowne, in reply, said he agreed with Lord Muskery that it was unfair, while the coasting trade of Great Britain and her dependencies was open to all coasting traders, that some countries were closed to British ships. But so long as the powers did not infringe the treaty rights, Great Britain had no right to complain. The suggestion that Great Britain should reserve her coasting trade for British ships, Lord Lansdowne considered to be no remedy as the United States and Russia, which most completely excluded foreign ships from their coasting trade, took the smallest part in the British coasting trade. The government saw no prospect of inducing the United States to alter the arrangements.

Lord Lansdowne explained that the United States considered that under the most favored nation clause they had the right to make special arrangements entitling any power to exceptional privileges as Spain received in the Philippines. In regard to Hankau, Lord Lansdowne said instructions had been given to attach British ships the preference in the wharves at Hankau. As to placing foreign vessels under restrictions on the British coast, the House of Commons committee appointed in 1904 would be asked to report on the subject.

London, May 23.—At the opening of the House of Commons today there were prospects of a repetition of the scenes witnessed last night, but Premier Balfour calmed the members by promising that for the discussion of the vote of censure of the ministers for their statements on the subject of the colonial conference, undertaken that the debate will proceed with decency and fair play.

The premier on entering the House was greeted with ministerial cheers and opposition jeers of derision. Order restored, Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, asked whether in view of the "confusion created by the declarations of His Majesty's ministers in regard to the fiscal policy and the proposed colonial conference, the premier will give a day for the discussion of a vote of censure."

Sir Wm. Hart Dyke (Conservative) interrupted the suggestion that the Liberal leader express regret at "the obstruction and insulting language of yesterday."

The House was immediately in an uproar, the ministerial cheering, the opposition howling, and the Liberal members shouting "Police! Police!" Sir William ultimately withdrew his offensive remark and Mr. Balfour, taking advantage of the lull, made an offer of a day for the discussion of the proposed vote of censure, and the matter was dropped.

REPORT REPULSE OF RUSSIAN FORCES

JAPS TELL OF FIGHTING ON THE MALLEN RIVER

Rojevstevsky Has Not Been Heard From For Ten Days—Story of His Death Ridiculed.

Tokio, May 23.—Noon.—Imperial army headquarters, reporting to-day, says: "The Russian cavalry which detoured toward Kagumen, on the right bank of the Malien river, was defeated by our rear-guard on May 20th. After their failure in the vicinity of Tanfangshen they camped with the main strength at Siao-tan, 20 miles from Fakumen, and on May 21st they retreated to the right bank of the Malien river."

"In the meantime a few companies of the enemy remaining on the left bank of the Malien were defeated, and retreated northward in disorder."
"Otherwise the situation is unchanged."

LINEVITCH READY FOR A BIG BATTLE.

St. Petersburg, May 23.—3.45 p.m.—The news from the front continues to point to the imminence of fighting on a large scale.
General Linevitch is pressing the Japanese centre, both on the line of the railway and on the Mandarin road, but whether he is simply feeling out Field Marshal Oyama's strength, or has assumed a general offensive movement, is not yet clear.

There is no doubt, however, that Linevitch has made complete preparations for a big battle.
All the Russian sick and wounded who were at Harbin and places south of there have been transported westward to the Manchurian coast, and the foreign secretary, based the members of the committee would make practical suggestions.

CORRESPONDENT DEFENDS RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.

Hemirovich, May 23.—Danchenko, the well known Russian newspaper correspondent, has written a spirited defence of the Russian soldiers against the reproach of drunkenness, comparing his observations in the Russo-Turkish war and the present conflict to show the increased sobriety of the Russian troops.

WHY BRILLOFF IS GOING TO VLIVOSTOCK.

St. Petersburg, May 23.—The Associated Press was informed at the admiralty this afternoon that no direct advice has been received from Vice-Admiral Rojevstevsky for two days, when it is believed he set out on his long voyage.
The report of Rojevstevsky's death was ridiculed at the admiralty.
The sailing of Vice-Admiral Brillloff to Vladivostok, it is now explained, is a natural precautionary measure for the purpose of having an energetic commander at Vladivostok to replace Rojevstevsky in the event that the latter is killed or disabled, during the coming sea fights, no doubt being entertained that if the fleets come together Admiral Topo's vessels will concentrate their fire on the Russian flagship.

Should Rojevstevsky come out of the fight victorious and enjoying fair health, it is considered to be a foregone conclusion that he will be rewarded by appointment to the supreme command.

Fortunately the best relations prevail between Rojevstevsky and Brillloff, and the latter would be glad to give way to his victorious colleague.

HAS ROJEVSTEVSKY OUTWITTED TOGO?

Paris, May 22.—It is openly asserted in Russian and French diplomatic circles here that Admiral Rojevstevsky has worked a clever ruse on Admiral Togo and that he is now well on his way toward Vladivostok, having eluded the Japanese trap set for him.
While there is no confirmation of this report, color is lent it by the minister of marine, who states that he has received information from Saigon to the effect that after the Russian fleet left Port Dayot, they went to Hainan, where they loaded coal during last Friday night. On Saturday a part of the fleet, comprising seven auxiliary cruisers, returned to the coast of French Indo-China, and anchored for a couple of hours, after which they sailed for Port Dayot.
This action on the part of the Russian auxiliaries is declared to have been a ruse on the part of the Russian commander, who sent them back in order to deceive the Japanese into believing that he was returning to French waters with his whole fleet, while the fact was that he was steaming at full speed toward Vladivostok with his battleships and cruisers, leaving behind him the weaker

vessels that would only retard his progress.

REPORT OF FIGHTING ON THE LEFT FLANK.

St. Petersburg, May 22.—Advices have been received by the general staff from General Linevitch, stating that a general engagement is in progress all along the line of the Russian left flank and that two divisions are engaged with the Japanese.
The Russian position is a strongly entrenched one and up to the present they have been able to hold their own and beat back the repeated assaults of the Japanese.
Up to Sunday the Russian casualties were estimated at 500, and those of the Japanese at about three that number.

The Japanese, according to the report, are moving against the entire Russian line, although up to the present the fighting has been confined to the left. As Oyama has moved quantities of heavy artillery into position, it is expected the general assault will not be much longer delayed.

NEW COUNCIL TO CONTROL THE WAR.

St. Petersburg, May 22.—The first step towards the institution of the long-templated council of national defence, to co-ordinate the activities of the military and naval administration, has been taken in an imperial manifesto creating a special preliminary commission under the presidency of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievitch.
The manifesto is preceded by a receipt which Emperor Nicholas addressed to the grand duke, in which his majesty says:

"In order to insure the development of the empire's fighting force in a manner corresponding to the needs and resources of the state and uniformity in the duties of the supreme naval and military administration and also to harmonize them with those of other governmental institutions in questions affecting the safety of the state, I have deemed it necessary to establish a permanent state defence council. I charge the special commission, consisting of members appointed by me, under the presidency of your imperial highness, to draw up according to my direct suggestion a law relating to this institute."

The receipt concludes with the expression of the conviction that the commission will work out the task confided to it without delay and with the care and meditated attention which the high importance of the war imperious demands.
The formation of the council and the assumption by it of control of the war is expected to ensure shortly, as the main details have already been worked out. The dispatch of the grand duke, who is designated as the permanent state defence council, has been a direct command of the imperial force there, has been several times seriously considered, and he has served repeatedly of late as representative of the emperor in dealing with vital questions of the war. The existing council of war, which has proved unsatisfactory, will be superseded by the new body.

The step is an extremely important one, for which the events of the war in the Far East have shown the necessity, the two departments failing to work together to the best advantage even when actuated by the most harmonious feelings, and friction has been often manifested. Many opportunities for helpful co-operation between the two arms of the service are constantly arising, and if Vice-Admiral Rojevstevsky succeeds in reaching Vladivostok and slaking the Japanese mastery of the seas, the command will play a very weighty role. At the same time the council is created, at the present war, but as a permanent organization for the state, subordinating the war and navy departments and even overshadowing the other ministries.

It is understood the formation of the new council means the definite abandonment of the plan of sending Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievitch to the Far East to assume supreme command on land and sea.

NEARLY DEFENCELESS AT OUTBREAK OF WAR.

St. Petersburg, May 22.—Greatly increased activity is observable in the dispatch of troops to the Far East from Poland. Recently picked drafts from various regiments were sent from Warsaw, Lodz and other places.
The commission investigating the surrender of Port Arthur has finished the first half of its labors. The investigation of the documentary evidence presented by General Stoessel in his own defence tended to show that the fortress at the outbreak of the war was nearly defenceless, without supplies or cash.

BOILER EXPLOSION.

Columbus, Ohio, May 22.—Six men were killed to-day by the explosion of the boiler of the engine room standing near the Hooking Valley railway roundhouse on West Mount street. The six men who were killed were at work nearby.
The building was damaged and quantities of the debris were scattered for hundreds of feet in all directions. Several of the men killed were thrown high in the air.
The engine that exploded was being tested for its first run after rebuilding. Four other men were badly injured. The bodies of the six men were terribly mangled. One man is believed to have been blown in the river and is not accounted for.