New Light On Retreat

English Correspondent Gives Some Startling Facts About Kuropatkin.

General Took Plenty of Time to Make Sure of His Own Escape.

Drunken Cossacks Committed Many Outrages on the Civilians.

LONDON, March 17.—A despatch to the Daily Telegraph from Sinmintin, descriptive of the fighting around and the fall of Mukden, gives some interesting news. It appears that General Kuropatkin left for Tie pass on horseback on March 8, his staff following by train the next day. On March 10, Cossacks, maddened with drink, committed the wildest excesses and robberies, and killed numerous civilians in Mukden. The Russian retreat from Mukden station was well executed until it was discovered that the cordon of Japanese in the rear, two and a half miles from town, was nearly complete, when the retirement became a flight.

The Russian left army, comprising some 150,000, according to the same despatch, was cut off by the Japanese, but is said to have, by forced marches from Fushun and Tungfu by way of Lichiatun, Wayanocheng and Sunchiati, splendidly executed a junction with the main body at Tie pass in three days.

The correspondent at Tokio of the Daily Telegraph learns that the Japanese left army advanced towards Mukden at flying speed, and in the last four days covered respectively 30, 35, 20 and 15 miles. One force was sent specially to search for Gen. Kuropatkin and his staff, but they had already gone.

Will Retreat to Harbin.

A despatch to the Daily News from Tokio today says: "Tie pass, which was held by about a division of Russian troops, is now in possession of the Japanese.

"After a slight resistance the Russians evacuated at midnight the strong positions they had prepared months ago, setting fire to the railway station and other buildings. The Japanese troops which occupied Yinpao and East Fushun are in hot pursuit along the Kirin road.

"It is predicted that the Russians will retreat to Harbin.

"Tokio is preparing a municipal celebration of the Japanese victory for Saturday."

JAPAN WANTS MONEY.

German Financiers Have Been Sounded as to a New Loan.

Berlin, March 16.—The Lokal Anzeiger says Japan is sounding German financiers with reference to the placing of a Japanese loan on the German market. The results of the interchange of views are not yet known, but it is not improbable, the Lokal Anzeiger says, that bankers will agree to accept Japan's offer. The conference thus far has been merely preliminary.

TO FORTIFY FRONTIERS.

Italy Now Turns to Protection of Her Austrian Boundary.

Rome, March 16.—In view of the international situation which has prevailed since Italy entered the triple alliance in 1882, she has entirely neglected her fortifications on the eastern frontier, centering all her efforts on fortifying the western frontier, as Italy's relations with France were so strained that under Premier Crispi conflict seemed imminent. Since 1889, however, the most friendly relations have been re-established with France and the opinion now prevails here that all the Italian frontiers should be equally protected, not for aggressive purpose but so that Italy may be ready for all possible occurrences.

The eastern Alps are strictly Italy's weakest point, as Austrian territory so projects into Italy as to enable an hostile army to be in the heart of Lombardy in a few days' march. Therefore a bill will be presented to parliament making the necessary appropriations for the fortifications of the Italian frontier in direction of the Austrian Alps, but any uneasiness of the subject in Austria is not justified, Italy's project being merely defensive.

NORTH SEA COMMISSION.

American Admiral Convinced of Justness of British Case.

New York, March 16.—Rear Admiral C. H. Davis, U. S. N., returned from Europe tonight on the steamer Finland. When asked at quarantine regarding the report that the King of England wished to honor him, Rear Admiral Davis replied that the report was true; that Lord Lansdowne had telegraphed him at Paris requesting him to express to Admiral Davis the King's regret that the admiral did not intend to stop in London, as King Edward would have been pleased to receive him. The admiral was unable to go, however.

In regard to the North Sea commission, Admiral Davis said that the finding was satisfactory to the British, and that in fact no other finding was possible under the evidence produced.

"I want to say," said Admiral Davis, "that it was said in Paris through the press that the members of the commission had been instructed as to their findings by their respective governments. This I want to deny. Not a member of that commission was instructed by his government and the findings of the tribunal was upon the evidence.

"The evidence was on one side. England had all the facts on her side and won the case." When asked whether it was the fishing smacks or some of the vessels of the Russian fleet that Admiral Rojestvensky saw, he replied: "The Lord knows; I don't. If you read the evidence and can find that out, you are a jewel."

Regarding the outcome of the Russian-Japanese war, Admiral Davis said judging from the reports that he had just read from the Far East, he saw no hope for the Russians. He expressed as his opinion that no matter what was the fate of Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet, it would not have any effect upon the outcome of the war.

MASKERS MAKE MERRY.

Third Annual Fancy Dress Ball of V. W. A. A. a Great Success.

The third annual masquerade ball of the Victoria West Athletic Club, held at the club ball last evening, proved as singularly successful as the most enthusiastic member could have dared to hope. Upwards of 200 attended, and the decorations, floor, supper and music were of the most satisfactory character, the music being provided by the Sehl-Bantly orchestra.

The various prizes of the evening were won as hereunder: Best waltzers, Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Goodman; second, Miss Firman and Mr. Johnson; best comic, Mr. Knauss; most original characterization, Mr. H. Jacobson; best dressed gentleman, Mr. W. Petticrew; best dressed lady, Miss Andrews.

COPPER OPERATOR DEAD.

Head of Great Guggenheim Interests Passes Away.

New York, March 16.—A despatch from Palma Beach, Fla., reports the death of Meyer Guggenheim, the copper capitalist. Death was caused by pneumonia. He was 78 years old.

OF INTEREST TO SPORTSMEN.

Proprietary Interest in Challenge Cup Subject of Litigation.

An action was begun in the Supreme court yesterday which promises to prove of especial interest to the sportsmen of the city, and particularly those interested in kennel club doings. The style of the action is one between A. J. Garesche on behalf of himself and other members of the Victoria Kennel Club, plaintiffs, and A. Fairfull, defendant. It appears that Mrs. James Dunsmuir, at the Kennel Club show in 1904, offered for competition amongst exhibitors of Irish setters a challenge cup, the same to be for the 1904 show and in subsequent years. The club itself for the same class of dogs offered a special prize, and the latter and the challenge cup were both won by Mr. Fairfull. The latter now, however, refuses to give up the challenge cup for competition at the annual Kennel Club show to be held next month, claiming it as his personal property. The action is taken to compel the defendant to make restitution of the cup, which is a very valuable one. J. M. Bradburn is acting for the plaintiffs, and Yates & Jay for the defendant. No date has yet been set for the trial of the action.

On the whole, outside of the above, the day was a particularly quiet one in the law courts. There was but one application in chambers of a very uninteresting character.

NORDENFELDT GUNS BOUGHT BY AGENT

Capt. Gaudin Buys Quick-Firers For Fishery Protection Vessels.

Captain James Gaudin, local agent of marine and fisheries, has purchased from the naval storekeeper at Esquimalt, under instructions from the department at Ottawa, seven Nordenfeldt quickfiring guns. These guns, which are of an obsolete type, were part of the stock of ordnance held at the naval yard at Esquimalt and were to have been shipped to England together with the stores of the abandoned station, now being placed on board the British ship Penthilesea, which will be ready to sail tomorrow.

Mr. Harris, naval storekeeper at Esquimalt, approached the local agent of the department of marine and fisheries with regard to the sale of the guns for which the admiralty had no further use, and when Captain Gaudin laid the matter before the minister of his department, he was at once advised by wire to purchase the seven Nordenfeldt guns from the Esquimalt storekeeper.

The seven guns of many barrels and ancient model have been delivered to the agent of marine and fisheries and will be kept here pending instructions from Ottawa as to their disposal. It is understood that the guns are intended for the armament of the fishery protection vessels in the service of the department. The Kestrel, which left last night for Vancouver, has a gun or two of small calibre, and it may be decided to put some of the just purchased guns on the Dominion government steamer.

NEWS OF ROSSLAND CAMP.

Rossland, March 16.—Wm. Thompson, M. E., consulting engineer for the Velvet-Portland Co., has lost no time in authorizing the re-starting of the mill and the mine. Manager Larsen, who came in to meet Mr. Thompson on his arrival from Mexico, has returned to the Velvet with a force of men and things will begin to get busy there tomorrow. Mr. Thompson is anxious to make a good showing for the Velvet-Portland this year and believes that 1905 will prove a banner year for that property. Accompanied by Allan McLean, a director of the company, he will visit the mine on Saturday.

Mr. Thompson said: "Of course I have only just returned after an absence of four months, but I have endeavored to keep myself fully informed of how matters are going in Rossland. The talk about amalgamation seems to be rapidly assuming concrete form and in common with everybody else I am heartily glad of it. It means more money for everybody directly or indirectly interested in the camp. No matter how much profit there may be under existing conditions, a consolidation of the Le Roi, Centre Star and War Eagle would mean much more. It stands to reason that the treatment of all the ore of the three mines at one smelter would result in great economies—economies which nobody can afford to ignore if he is in favor of sound economical conditions."

Asked for his opinion as to the relative merits of Trail and Northport as points for smelting Rossland ores, he said he favored the smelting being done in Canada.

FIVE RESERVISTS EXECUTED.

Polish Mobilization Causes Disturbances and Offenders Punished.

Warsaw, March 16.—Reservists who were waiting at barracks at Wolkowsk, government of Grodno, formed a conspiracy to make organized disturbances among the troops in order to avoid being sent to Manchuria. The offenders were courtmartialed. Five of them were executed on March 13 and others sentenced for life. The mobilization of the 15th and 19th corps, stationed in Poland, is expected shortly.

The attempt to call out the reserves in the government of Siedloe, which is in the centre of the peasant agitation, is certain to meet with violent opposition.

DYING BOY'S ACCUSATION.

Recovers Consciousness Long Enough to Implicate Mother.

Westchester, Pa., March 16.—Dominick Deluca, the ten-year-old boy who was beaten and kicked into insensibility at the same time that his five-year-old sister Mary was assaulted and killed in the old blacksmith shop in Howellville Tuesday night, died today in the Chester county hospital.

For a few moments before his death the boy regained consciousness, and in reply to questions asked by the hospital attendants, said: "Mother told me not to tell. She said if I did I would be killed. There was a fight in the house.

"Mary ran out and I ran after her. A man followed us ——." At this point the boy stopped and answered no further questions except that his mother told him not to tell. He died without throwing any more light on the crime.

THE ALLAN'S NEW STEAMER.

Turbine Victorian Makes Good Run on the Clyde.

Glasgow, March 16.—The Allan line's steamer Victorian was given a trial on the Clyde today and made a speed of 19½ knots. She will sail on March 23 from Liverpool for Montreal. At a luncheon after the trial Mr. Dunlop, chairman of the Allan company, said all doubts as to the efficiency of the turbine steamers had been removed.

HARASSED RUSSIAN ARMY IS AGAIN ON THE WING

With the Abandonment of Tie Pass Kuropatkin Swings Loose From His Last Stronghold in Manchuria and the General Staff Have the Haziest Ideas as to Where Retreat Will End Owing to the Immense Quantities of Ammunition and Stores Destroyed and Apprehension of Supposed Flanking Movement of Mysterious Army of Kawamura.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 17.—(1:15 a. m.)—With the evacuation of Tie pass Wednesday night, the Russian army abandoned the last stronghold in southern Manchuria, and definitely turned over the section to the Japanese for the campaign of 1905. At least no other strategy is possible for Gen. Kuropatkin in view of scarcity of ammunition and stores, the shattered condition of his army, and the wide enveloping movements which the Japanese have continued almost without a stop since the Russian defeat at Mukden. Nothing has been heard of the part which Gen. Kawamura's army is taking in these operations, but Generals Nogi and Oku, operating in the hills of the Tie gorge, are sufficient to turn the shattered Russian army out of the fortifications which had been prepared with a view of being held by an army after being withdrawn from Mukden. The Japanese evidently are doing their utmost to accomplish the envelopment of the Russian army, which all but succeeded at Mukden, but Gen. Kuropatkin, with the railway for a line of retreat, probably will be able to keep ahead of his pursuers. A constant succession of delaying rearguard encounters may be expected.

Military men here have but the haziest ideas as to where the next stand will be made. Apparently there are no more fortified positions in readiness, and the retirement probably will not stop short of Kirin or Kuanchentzy, on the railway line; and if the Japanese press the pursuit, the Russians may retire beyond Anduh and the Sungari river, there to await new levies, the mobilization of which will begin immediately in Russia.

The evacuation of Tie pass involves the loss of the coal mines in that vicinity, which, with the Fushun and Yentai mines, is a severe blow. The railway shops at Tie pass and more supplies were sacrificed.

THE RUSSIAN RETIREMENT.

Santoupu, March 16.—The Russian detachments at Tie pass were, on March 15, ordered to evacuate their positions during the night and retired throughout the day. Before withdrawal of the Russian forces, the military settlement and such of the stores of fuel and forage as could not be removed, were set on fire and destroyed. The fighting on March 14 and 15 fell to the Second Siberian corps. Kineshemsko and Voyazemsky Red Cross nurses, including two sisters of charity, attended the wounded at the various positions, retiring just as the advance rearguard passed.

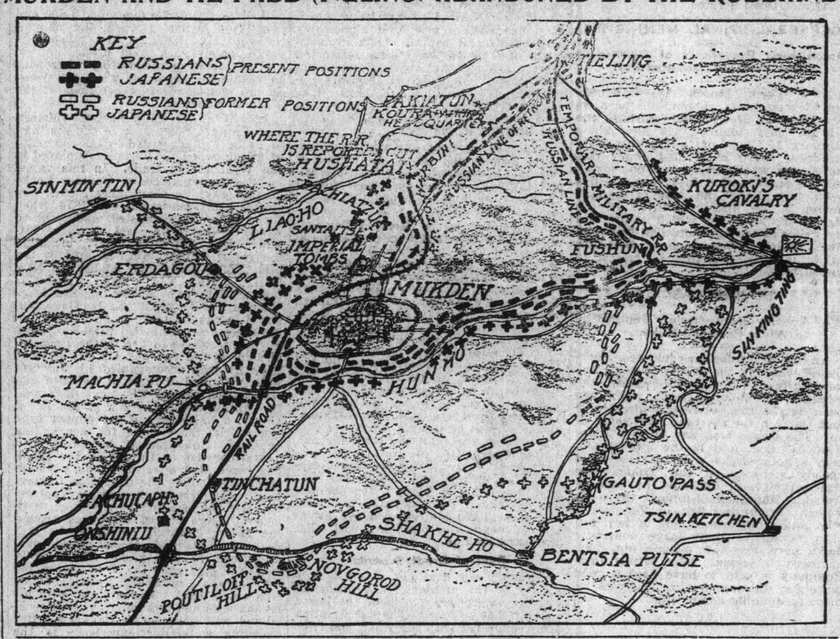
A further mobilization has been determined upon, and preparatory advices to quartermasters, etc., are already being issued, but the extent of the mobilization is not known.

No change in the command of the army in the Far East has yet been gazetted. One high military official told the Associated Press correspondent yesterday that to remove Gen. Kuropatkin at this moment would be "much like trading horses in the middle of a stream, and that it would be better to give Kuropatkin a chance to get his army, at least what is left of it, out of the claws of the Japanese before committing it to a new commander, who necessarily would need a little time to get a grasp upon the situation."

The weather on the plain is much colder than in the Mukden section of Manchuria, the thermometers in the trains dropping several degrees as the divide is crossed, and continuing to go down until Lake Baikal is reached. As a rule the ground does not commence to thaw until April, except on the surface in the middle of the day, the sun being strong even in winter.

The most important Russian town between Tie pass and Harbin, with the exception of Kirin, which is not on the railway, is Kwansuling, also spelt Kunchuling. This town is a little more than 100 miles north of the pass. Here were gathered great stores of provisions, alongside of which were erected Red Cross hospitals, the best by far that the Russians ever had in Harbin. At all the old stations there was also hospital accommodations, so that if Kuropatkin escapes from Oyama at Tie pass he has a good country to cross at the most favorable time of the year. Another few weeks and the roads will be impassable. But if he is hard pressed there is not a defensible position unless he abandons the railway and seeks safety in the eastern hills. Later in the year, of course, the river would afford some protection, but in winter, being frozen, they are as easy to cross as the country. West of Harbin, along the railway, the first hills are encountered about midway between Harbin and the Siberian border. These mountains are most formidable, several switchbacks and tunnels being necessary to carry the railway over them.

MUKDEN AND TIE PASS (TIELING) ABANDONED BY THE RUSSIANS



KUROPATKIN'S FLIGHT TOWARD THE NORTH

(By Associated Press.)

Gen. Kuropatkin and the remnants of the army which was defeated by the Japanese on the Shakhe and Hun rivers, and again around Mukden and Tie pass, are now in the mountains a few miles north of the southern entrance to the pass, trying to shake off their pursuers, who apparently are not going to repeat the mistake of Liaoyang and allow the Russian army to escape. Kuropatkin has been reinforced by the garrison of Tie Bing and other northern towns, and a few new troops who were on their way from Russia when the battle of Mukden began. But even with these there seems to be no hope for him. True he has some thirty or forty miles of hilly country extending from Tie Pass to Fengluasien, which might enable him to hold off the enemy for a time, but once out of the hills he has before him nearly two hundred miles of open country and unfordable rivers to cross. This is what is terms "the great valley," but it is in fact an immense plain, bounded on the east by high mountains, and extending northward into Siberia and westward into Mongolia. Kirin, east of the railway, and Harbin, the most northerly point on the railway, where it branches off to Vladivostok eastward, this country resembling in many respects the Northwest Territories of Canada. From Tie pass the railway runs over hills known as the divide to Kaiyuan, twenty miles, then striking into a valley, on either side of which rise high hills, emerges on the plain just northeast of the important Chinese city of Fenghuasien. From there to Harbin hardly a hill can be seen from the railway train, the line running almost straight, except where an occasional curve is necessary to reach a city or favorable crossing of a river.

Besides the railway there is a splendid wagon road from Tie pass to Kaiyuan, where it branches, one branch making a detour to the westward, striking the mountains, and running almost direct to Harbin. The other branch passes through the mountains to Kirin, from which centre there are many roads. The distance from Tie pass to Harbin is about 300 miles, and except for the first few miles, every acre supports herds of cattle and sheep. As far as the forage is concerned, the Russians need have no fear. Hardly a pound of last year's crop of beans, millet or wheat left the country, the Russans buying it all and storing it at stations along the railroad, immense sheds being erected for its reception. They also purchased all the cattle and horses, and had Cossacks herding them.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT.

Amendments Under Consideration by Municipal Committee.

As a result of representations heard by the municipal committee, a bill to amend the Municipal Elections Act is being drafted for submission to the legislature. It provides among other things that:

"In city municipalities the list of voters shall be prepared by the clerk of the municipality and shall be closed on the 24th of December in each year and corrected and revised and certified as correct by the clerk of the municipality on or before the 5th of January of the year in which nominations are made, and such clerk shall cause the list so corrected and revised to be printed, and shall cause a print thereof certified by him to be correct, to be posted at the City hall before the day of nomination."

Another section under consideration stipulates that—

"It shall be unlawful at any municipal election to provide to or for any elector, or to or for any inhabitant of the municipality, or any person being within the municipality from the day of said election, any cockade, ribbon or other mark of distinction, and no person shall use at any municipal election flags, banners, placards or bills in any way concerning or having reference to the municipal election, whether carried by hand or upon vehicles, at any such municipal election. Any person committing an offence against the provision of this subsection shall be deemed guilty of the offence of treating, and in addition to any other punishment or consequence provided for by statute, shall be liable to the penalty by this section provided for the offence of treating."

Various suggestions submitted by different municipalities, including Victoria, North Vancouver, Vancouver and others, are being considered in framing the new bill.

NO COMPROMISE.

Toronto News.

Compromise is the latest word from Ottawa. The western members are said to have agreed upon a new set of educational provisions, making permanent the "rights and privileges" enjoyed by the minority under the ordinances of the Northwest Territories passed in 1901. Should these rights and privileges be invaded, the minority will have the right to appeal to the Governor-General, provided for in the Confederation act, to be enforced, if necessary, by remedial legislation. This compromise is said to have been accepted by Mr. Sifton. The advantages are that the privileges of the minority are ascertained and that they are sanctioned by the local authority. But the new provisions are just as much an invasion of provincial rights as the old. Why should the new legislature be compelled to accept as unalterable a law made by a body possessing inferior powers, a temporary body intended to manage the affairs of the Territories in their infancy? Why should the legislatures be deprived of the power of amending the laws in this respect, of modifying the system to suit the circumstances as they may change from time to time? As Mr. Sifton and the western members have gone so far, they had better go a little farther, and insist on the absolute freedom of the new provinces.

GUILLOTINE MOTION PASSES.

Premier Balfour's Application of Closure Adopted.

London, March 16.—The House of Commons tonight adopted Premier Balfour's "guillotine" motion by 208 to 129.

What is designated as the "guillotine" motion was introduced into the House of Commons March 15 with the purpose of securing the sanctioning of the estimates before the close of the fiscal year, March 31. It is another term for closure.

REACHING OUT.

Local Stevedoring Company Affiliated With New Puget Sound Firm.

A new stevedoring company has been formed on Puget Sound, the Washington Stevedoring Company, in which Victoria stevedores are interested; in fact, the new company is affiliated with the Victoria and Vancouver Stevedoring Company of this city and Vancouver. Mr. Omar J. Humphrey is president, and Mr. J. S. Gibson of Chemainus, a member of the Victoria and Vancouver Stevedoring Company, vice-president and general manager, and will in future reside in Seattle. Mr. John Barneson of San Francisco, Mr. McDermot of Victoria and Captain Amesbury of Vancouver, B. C., and Mr. Frank Waterhouse of Seattle, are also interested, and while the new company is quite distinct it will be very intimately related to the Victoria and Vancouver Stevedoring Company, which completely controls the stevedoring at the British Columbia ports, and which has a good reputation with both local and foreign shipowners. The new company has secured as a basis for its operations the coal of the Great Northern steamers Minnesota and Dakota, which will in future bunker with coal from Comox to be brought down in the old hulk Columbia, a dismantled sailing vessel now lying at Chemainus, and which was purchased two years ago by Mr. Gibson and Mr. Peabody.

MARCONI'S WEDDING.

Great Inventor Finally Secures a Better Half.

London, March 16.—The marriage of Guglielmo Marconi to the Honorable Beatrice O'Brien, half sister of Lord Inchiquin, took place today at St. George's church, Hanover Square.

BULGARIAN LEADER KILLED.

Notorious Apostol a Victim of Brush With Turkish Infantry.

Salonica, European Turkey, March 16.—The report that Apostol, the notorious Bulgarian leader, has been killed, is confirmed. A sharp engagement took place Tuesday between 500 Turkish infantry and cavalry and a strong band of Bulgarians at the village of Smola, near Chevyeli. The Bulgarians were defeated with the loss of 42 killed, including Apostol. The Turks lost three men killed and eight wounded.

FOUND OLD HULL.

Ancient Craft Found Beneath Brooklyn Subway by Workmen.

A New York despatch says that eighteen feet below the street level the diggers of the Brooklyn subway have come upon the hull of an old ship. The remnants of the vessel must have been where they were found at least 100 years.

The workmen, first of all, came to what appeared to be a black oak floor. Chopping through it, they uncovered the curved black oak ribs of a ship. They would have found rock more easy to dispose of. The timbers were as hard as stone itself, and very much harder to break up. They could not be blasted, and axe after axe was dulled in getting through them.

So little of the ship has been exposed that not much can be learned of it. It seems to be lying across the street, however, with much of its length running under the buildings on the south side of the street. At the time the foundations for these buildings were dug, so far as any one can remember, there was no trace of this old ship. The oak timbers of the ship are fastened together with wooden pins, and ships have not been put together without metal for many a long year.

B. T. ROGERS PLANS MILLS AT FIJI

Vancouver Sugar Refiner Returns From Tour of Southern Plantations.

Mr. B. T. Rogers, manager of the British Columbia Sugar Refinery, arrived from Suva by the steamer Aorangi yesterday. He went south by the Miowera, and investigated the possibilities with regard to the establishment of a sugar mill in Fiji for the treatment of cane grown by planters. On arrival Mr. Rogers was met by Hon. R. Gemmell Smith, manager of the Colonial Sugar Refinery, a Sydney concern in Fiji, and Col. L. E. Brown, whose guest he was while in Suva. As a guest of the Planters' Association he visited Rewa and looked over the plantations in that district, and a visit was paid to Navua, Hon. James Murray, manager of the Fiji Sugar Co., placing his steam launch at Mr. Rogers' disposal. The Deuba plantations were also visited. It was generally understood that a crushing mill would be erected as a result of the visit to the islands by Mr. Rogers.

While in Fiji Mr. Rogers made arrangements for the supply of raw material for the refinery at Vancouver. Last year the company bought 3,000 tons of sugar in Fiji, all of which was shipped by the Canadian-Australian liners and many cargoes were received from Honolulu and Java. A sailing vessel is now on the way from Sourabaya with a cargo.

Mr. Rogers was too busy yesterday to be interviewed regarding the project of the establishment of a mill at Honolulu. He was met here by his wife and family, who journeyed to Vancouver with him on the liner.

A. I. Goodell Runs Smelter.

From September 1, 1904, Mr. McMillan was at Rossland and Northport discharging the duties of general manager, with J. W. Astley as general superintendent and Albert I. Goodell as superintendent of the smelter. The directors have given much attention to the question of concentrating the low-grade ores of the mine. In the month of May a small mill near Rossland was leased, and tests were carried out there under the supervision of J. H. Mackenzie and his partner, Fred Bradley, who, under a temporary arrangement, were acting as consulting engineers. The result of these tests, however, was not sufficiently satisfactory to warrant the directors in spending a large sum of money in the erection of a concentrating plant. Other investigations have been made, and a small experimental plant of its own is now being erected by the company at Rossland in which, with better equipment, to make further tests. During the year the development of the mine has been vigorously pushed forward.

Though the ore in the 1,350-foot level has not improved as important a development as Mr. Parrish anticipated, yet the discovery of ore at this depth is most encouraging. Large bodies of ore have been found in other parts of the mine. Since the end of the financial year an important body of high-grade ore has been discovered in the 1,450-foot level, which according to latest advices, as already published, averages $30 a ton in value and nine feet in width.

The directors have discussed the question of amalgamating with the Le Roi company other large interests in British Columbia. The negotiations in regard to this matter, with the necessary independent examinations which are now being made, must occupy a considerable period of time, and the whole matter will, before any action is taken, be laid before the shareholders.

Since the close of the year ended June 30 last a great improvement has taken place in the financial position of the company, largely owing to the improved methods introduced for carrying on the business both at the mine and smelter.

The Report.

Steady profits have been reported during the past six months, and at December 31 last the liabilities of the company to the Bank of Montreal amounted to only £17,626, which was more than covered by matte in transit from the Northport smelter to the Tacoma company, who purchased the matte under contract. At the same date the liquid assets of the company exceeded the liabilities by £31,506. The company is now in a stronger financial position than at any time since the year in which it was formed. George S. Waterlow, one of the directors, during the year paid a visit to British Columbia and other parts of Canada with special reference to the consolidation of interests above referred to.

THE CAPTURE OF TIE PASS.

Inhabitants of New Chwang Jubilant Over Russian Rout.

Newchwang, March 16.—Traffic on the Yinkow-Kounanse-Sinmintin railroad was reopened today. It is probable that merchants' shipments of provisions will be unquestioned in the future. The inhabitants of Newchwang are jubilant over the capture of Tie pass, which will release, when the river becomes free of ice, a thousand junks which have been long detained in the upper Liao river, having on board vast accumulations of beans and bean cake.

BANK VAULT ROBBED.

Petersburg, Tenn., March 16.—The vault in the bank of Petersburg was blown open today and all the cash was taken. The officials say the thieves secured $7,000. The bank is a state institution.

Dominion News Notes

News Received of Death In England of the Wife of Mr. Wainwright.

Peculiar Circumstances Attending Suicide of St. Thomas Man at Toronto.

Pioneer Missionary of the Red River Passes Away at Winnipeg.

MONTREAL, March 16.—A cable was received here today announcing the death of Mrs. Wainwright, wife of W. Wainwright, general assistant and comptroller of the Grand Trunk Railway, at Weston-Super-Mare, England. Deceased was a Miss Arnold, formerly of Toronto.

A special Ottawa despatch to Canada, the organ of the French-Canadian Liberals, says the autonomy bill is likely to be shelved for the present session and in the meantime the educational clauses would be referred to the privy council for interpretation of the British North America Act respecting them. In local legal and political circles the despatch is regarded as inspired in order to test public feeling.

A Toronto Tragedy.

Toronto, March 16.—C. W. Marlott of St. Thomas killed himself in the Daly House last night, where he had registered with a woman named Edna Williams as man and wife. They had supper and both seemed to be in the best of spirits. Voices were heard in the room after tea, but nothing unusual was noticed until about 11 p. m. prolonged ringing of the electric bell caused Thomas Doncaster, son of the proprietor, to hurry to the room.

"Let me out," cried the woman, and young Doncaster could not make her understand that the door was locked and the key inside. With a duplicate key the door was opened and the female occupant of the room fell into the arms of the young man. Putting her in a chair, Doncaster rushed into the room and found Marlott on the floor with a bullet wound in the right side of his head, a 32-calibre revolver lying close to his left hand. The young woman was for a time at least under suspicion, but the finding of a note on the table removed any doubt in the minds of all as to who did the shooting. The note read: "To whom it may concern: There is no one to blame for this but me. The lady does not know anything about this. Please don't blame her for anything. I ask forgiveness from my friends.

(Signed) "C. W. MARLOTT.

"P. S.—I am tired of life."

The young woman explained that she met Marlott for the first time at 189 Jarvis street Monday, and knew nothing of his previous history. She was nearly asleep when she heard the report of the pistol. There was but one shot fired, although two chambers of the pistol were empty. She remembered seeing Marlott sitting at the table writing, but did not know what the note was about till it was found after the shooting.

Moving Westward.

Toronto, March 16.—Fourteen hundred settlers from different parts of Ontario left here yesterday for the Northwest.

Campbellford, Ont., March 16.—Thos. B. Lute, a well known resident of this village, and formerly proprietor of the Windsor Hotel here, shot himself yesterday afternoon at his residence. He had not been feeling well for some time, and it is supposed that, becoming despondent, he committed the deed.

Belleville, March 16.—When the case of Frank J. Reilly, the star of the ballot box cases, next to Lott and Shibley, was called this morning, accused failed to appear. His bondsmen also failed to appear.

Woodstock, March 16.—The jury in the Dee poisoning case last night returned a verdict that the accused, Lena Dee, was insane and therefore unfit to receive trial on the charge of murder at the present time. Mrs. Dee was being tried on the charge of poisoning her husband, Wm. Dee, last October.

Red River Missionary Dead.

Winnipeg, March 16.—A pioneer missionary of the Red river passed away this afternoon at St. Norbert in the person of Monseigneur Ritchot, for over forty years parish priest there. Monseigneur Ritchot was a very prominent figure in the early days of Manitoba and especially during the Red river rebellion, when he endeavored to keep the French halfbreeds in check. He was one of the delegates of the then provisional government to go to Ottawa in 1870 with a bill of rights for presentation to the federal authorities. He was arrested at Ottawa for alleged complicity in the murder of Thomas Scott, but promptly released when the case came to trial. Deceased was a native of L'Assomption, Quebec, where he was born in 1825, leaving there for the Red river in 1862. He received the title of monseigneur in 1893, when the Pope created him apostolic prothonatory in recognition of his services.

At the Winnipeg assizes today three Galicians named Ivan Roger, Roman Cyncar and Fred. Siverease, on trial for the murder of George King, colored, were found guilty of manslaughter. Three others accused were acquitted.

The bank clearings for the week were $5,396,844; 1904, $4,058,135; 1903, $3,598,397.

POSTPONED RUSSIAN LOAN.

Action of Parisian Bankers Keenly Felt at St. Petersburg.

Paris, March 16.—The postponement of the new Russian loan continues to occupy attention in financial investment circles. The bankers think the loan is not a failure and that adjustment may still be reached. One of the bankers who went to St. Petersburg relates that during a conversation with M. Witte, the latter replied: "We can afford to suffer a defeat in Manchuria, but not one in Paris."

This is taken to indicate a strong feeling in St. Petersburg for all possible concessions to maintain Russia's financial position in the French market.

The peace movement has gained a strong impetus by the postponement of the loan and this leads to the report that France is adopting strict measures to induce Russia to accept peace. However, authoritative statements are made that France has not taken any action nor has Russia given any indication of willingness to discuss peace.

The Japanese officials thus far have not shown a disposition to accept the view that they should adopt a magnanimous attitude towards Russia.

PEABODY WINS OUT.

Denver, Colo., March 16.—At 5 p. m. the joint convention, by a vote of 55 to 41, adopted the report declaring Peabody to have been elected governor and ousting Adams.

MARTIAL LAW IN CAUCASUS.

Tiflis, Caucasia, March 16.—Martial law has been declared in the Ozurgeti and Senakh districts in the government of Kutais, and also at Gintryschi, in the government of Batoum.