4 P.M. EDITION

London Advertiser

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41ST YEAR. NO. 17272 THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1904. PRICE TWO CENTS.

LEGISLATION BEFORE COMMONS TO HALT THE TOBACCO TRUST

Hon. Mr. Brodeur Says American Combine Is Crushing the Independent Canadian Companies.

COMPELS CONTRACTS THAT GIVE THEM MONOPLY

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Aug. 4. — In the House today Mr. Brodeur proceeded with his resolution to cancel any license where a manufacturer of any class of goods subject to excise duties made a sale of his goods subject to the condition that the purchaser shall not sell or deal in goods of a like kind produced by any other manufacturer or dealer. The license will be canceled if any manufacturer holds back or refuses a commission for the same reason. All independent dealers in tobacco in Canada, both east and west, petitioned for this legislation, which was to prevent the Empire Tobacco Company and the American Tobacco Company, making contracts with their customers, which had for their object the crushing out of independent companies. These contracts created a monopoly for these tobacco companies. Judge McTavish, of Ottawa, investigated this matter, being appointed to do so.

It was in accordance with that report that he (Brodeur) was now bringing in this legislation. The same persons practically who control the Canadian companies were in the American trust. The capital stock of the company in 1890 was $25,000,000, and it has now been increased by watered stock and otherwise to $301,000,000.

The company controlled the cigarette business as well as the tobacco business, and are engaged in crushing out the Canadian independent companies. Of the five Canadian companies only three now remain. Two of them were crushed out with this monopoly. The minister declared that Canadian industries were not going to be crushed out by the American trusts. Canada was going to be a free country and was not going to be controlled by foreign corporations. It was the bounden duty of Canadians to see that this was not going to happen, and it was with that view that he proposed the legislation which was before the house. He was simply asking Parliament to make the company stop the exclusive contracts that they were making. Mr. Brodeur also referred to the large sums which the company was spending in advertising.

ELECTION ACT BEFORE HOUSE

Measure Given Its Third Reading—Mr. Alcorn's Amendment Defeated.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 4. — On motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it was decided this forenoon that the House should sit on Saturday.

The election act was read a third time. Mr. Alcorn moved an amendment that two weeks be given between nomination and polling in the constituencies of Chicoutimi, Saguenay and Gaspe in Quebec, and Yale, Cariboo, Kootenay and Comox in British Columbia, and that the election be held on the same day in these places as in the other parts of Canada. This was lost, and the bill was read a third time.

KNOCKED SILLY

Lightning Causes Man to Act as If He Were Drunk.

Kansas City, Aug. 4. — Last week the Kansas country papers reported fourteen deaths by lightning, with many other persons severely burned or shocked. Of late the Kansas lightning has been peculiarly active and deadly. Among the curious cases is one reported by the Anthony Republican. T. J. Brockway, a young farmer drove up to the home of his brother in the midst of a storm. He commenced at once to make such ludicrous and irrelevant remarks about familiar objects that the family concluded he was drunk, and with much sorrow put him to bed. Later it was found that he had been struck by a bolt of lightning and "knocked silly."

LOST BOTH LEGS

Inspector Beyabrige of C. P. R. Meets With Terrible Accident.

Toronto, Ont., Aug. 4. — B. A. Beyabrige, inspector of the C. P. R., with headquarters here, was run over this morning at Black Creek, near Toronto Junction, and had both legs cut off. He was removed to the Western Hospital.

SMALL CRAFT CAME OUT

Russian Flotilla Was Driven Back to Harbor.

Tokio, Thursday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m. — Twelve torpedo-boat destroyers, four torpedo boats and some gunboats emerged from the harbor at Port Arthur on the night of Aug. 1, but were driven back again but the Japanese warships on the outside.

GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL POLICY

Mr. A. C. Bell's Want of Confidence Resolution Re Expenditure Defeated.

Ottawa, Aug. 3. — The fiscal record of the Government came under its annual formal review today, and formed the occasion for a convincing and rousing speech by Hon. W. S. Fielding, in defense of the Liberal policy and record. Mr. A. C. Bell, of Pictou, moved a general want of confidence resolution, condemning the alleged excessixe expenditure of the Government. Mr. Fielding showed the inconsistency of the Opposition in moving such a resolution and leaving unchallenged 99 per cent of the votes asked for. Only yesterday Col. Hughes had urged that Canada pay ten times as much as she does for military purposes, while Mr. Haggart was recently one of a deputation which asked the Government to expend $100,000,000 on a large canal enterprise. Although the taxation per head was larger than in 1896, the revenue has greatly increased, and that $7 50 per head was paid more easily now than $3 50 per head in 1895, showed that the people were prosperous. The Conservatives had little money, and what they spent was extravagance. The sum that the Liberals had spent was economy, because they had the money to spend and they had lived within their means. The amendment was defeated by a Government majority of 42.

Cast Iron Quarantine.

Rochester, N. Y., Aug. 4. — The entire vilage of Dresden has been placed under quarantine on account of an epidemic of varioloid, and nearly 500 inhabitants are isolated from the outside world. No one can enter or leave the village, no railway train can stop at the station and no boat can tie up to the wharf. The state board of health has charge of the quarantine.

Trains In Collision.

Louisville, Ky., Aug. 4. — The southern bound passenger train on the L. and N. road, which left Cincinnati at 6 o'clock last night, collided with a north-bound passenger train near Herse Cave, Kentucky, at 2 o'clock this morning. Thirty-two passengers and four trainmen were injured.

Russians Have Holiday.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4. — This being the saint day of the Dowager Empress, a general holiday is observed throughout Russia. St. Petersburg was gaily decorated. The streets were filled with holiday crowds intent upon pleasure, and the tragic events reported from the seat of war seemed temporarily to be forgotten.

Must Explain.

Windsor, Ont., Aug. 4.—George E. White, a stone and cement contractor, complained to the city council last night that City Engineer Newman had been disposing of crushed stone owned by the city to paving and cement walk contractors in the city to the detriment of his (White's) business. The city clerk was instructed to request the city engineer to appear before the board of works committee at the next meeting and explain his alleged action.

Beautiful Swiss Heiress For "Glad the Unkissed"

Dowie Captures Lady and Her Millions During European Tour.

New York, Aug. 4. — The World this morning prints the following from its London correspondent:

The Geneva correspondent of the Daily Mail wires that Miss Ruth Hofer, of Constance, the wealthiest young woman in Switzerland, who went to America recently with Alexander Dowie, is soon to become the bride of Gladstone Dowie, the "Unkissed" son of the Zionist. The dispatch says further that Miss Hofer is considered not only the richest young woman in Switzerland, but the most beautiful as well. Her fortune is estimated at $5,000,000, and this vast sum is to be turned over entirely to the Zionist treasury. The correspondent says her beautiful chateau on Lake Constance is in the market, and that all her large property holdings in the town and its environments are to be sold in the shortest possible time. As the property is converted into cash it will be turned over to the man who proclaims himself "Elijah III."

Miss Hofer is one of Dowie's converts. He captured her on his tour of the continent a few months ago, and even before his party sailed for America, the rumor was current that she was intended for the bride of the great "Unkissed."

Kuropatkin Racing North, Japs at Heels; Pt. Arthur's Garrison Now in Last Ditch

Reported From New Chwang That Kuroki Has Headed Off Retreat With 50,000 Men, While Two Huge Armies Menace the Rear and Flank—350 Mikado's Guns Are Shelling the Last Line of Defense at Port Arthur.

New Chwang, Wednesday, Aug. 3. — General Kuroki with one hundred thousand men is now behind the Russian forces; Gen. Oku with an army of 50,000 men is on their front, while flanking them on the left is General Nodzu with his division of 50,000 men.

If General Kuropatkin is defeated in this battle he must either move westward or surrender.

The foreign military attaches are with the second army en route for the front to witness the battle. Japanese troopships are expected here tomorrow.

The Russian troops at Port Arthur have been driven back to the last line of their defenses. The Japanese attacking forces has 350 guns in action.

Still Going North.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 4. — The Japanese legation today received the following cablegram from Tokio: "General Oku reports that the enemy is retreating northward continually since Aug. 2. On Aug. 3 our army occupied Hai Cheng and New Chwang, situated 30 miles northeast of the open port of the same name."

Japs Enter Hai Cheng.

Tokio, Aug. 4, 2 p.m.—The Russians began abandoning Hai Cheng Aug. 2. The Japanese entered Hai Cheng without resistance at noon yesterday, and the Japanese occupied New Chwang the same day.

Headed for Liao Yang.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4. — The army organ makes no effort to foreshadow events of the immediate future in the far east, and gives no clue to Gen. Kuropatkin's intentions; but it declares that the events of the last ten days demonstrate conclusively that the Japanese objective since the beginning of the war had been to strike the main army of the Russians, and not, as popularly supposed, to take Port Arthur.

The paper says the Japanese general advance began July 23, the taking of Ta Tche Kiao being the signal for the final struggle in the valley of Liao River. On July 31, after six days' preparation, the armies of Generals Oku and Nodzu moved against Hai Cheng. The same day General Kuroki began the advance upon Liao Yang, rushing the portion of the Russian eastern army at Yangsee Pass and that of General Herschelman at Yushu Pass.

This paper estimates the strength of Kuroki's army at 120,000 men, of which number 50,000 are on the high road to Liao Yang, 30,000 are on the Saimatsza-Liao Yang road, 30,000 on the roads to Mukden, and 10,000 in reserve.

The paper does not give the figures of Generals Oku's and Nodzu's armies, which are believed to bring the total close to 200,000.

From St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4, 3:20 p.m. — General Kuropatkin's official details of the fighting on July 31 at Simoucheng say that only a division and a half were engaged. The report does not mention the loss of guns, neither was General Alexieff in command, as stated in the dispatch from Tokio yesterday. General Alexieff, who commands the Fifth Siberian Division of General Stakelberg's corps, was posted on the other side of Hai Cheng on July 31.

The war office does not intend to publish the name of the actual commander at Simoucheng for reasons of military expediency.

The war office does not expect the Japanese to resume their advance for several days.

They are always slow and cautious and make the most careful preparations before striking. Now they are probably again preparing for a flanking movement on a larger scale, and possibly awaiting the marching up of a strong column from New Chwang.

The failure of the Japanese to follow up their success is evidently the cause of great satisfaction to the general staff here. Whether this feeling is due to the fact that the delay will give Kuropatkin breathing spells and enable him to arrange his concentrated dispositions for the coming battle, or because it will allow the requisite time to effect his withdrawal northward, is, of course, unknown, the general staff not even admitting that the commander-in-chief is contemplating escape. In either event, however, the Russians will profit by the declination of the Japanese to pursue their advantages.

May Retreat to Harbin.

London, Thursday, Aug. 4.—There is a complete absence of news from the fighting front, so far as events subsequent to the three days' hard fighting in the neighborhood of Hai Cheng and Liao Yang are concerned, except confirmation of the reported abandonment of Hai Cheng by the Russians. The truth of this was assured yesterday, and the suggestion that Gen. Kuropatkin may relinquish the idea of seriously defending even Liao Yang, where enormous stores must have accumulated, receives support from the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris, who reports that a large number of troops have evacuated Liao Yang, and are retiring on Mukden, while during the past week trainloads of provisions and munitions have been dispatched daily to that place. News from every official and unofficial source, Japanese and Russian, shows that Gen. Kuropatkin is retiring north with all haste. He is fighting a stubborn rear guard fight, hoping to avoid being cut off before he can reach Liao Yang, but there is little hope of his putting an end to his retreat before Harbin is reached.

The Russians, before leaving Hai Cheng, destroyed the guns and munitions stored there. A dispatch, referring to the engagement which opened Saturday along the entire east front, in which the Russians admitted they sustained 1,000 casualties, describes how the Russians were outflanked Sunday and began to retire. The Russian artillery began covering the withdrawal of the column at 11 o'clock in the morning. At the end of the second day's operations Kuchiatsu, which had been the center of the operations east of Liao Yang, saw a sobered, silent, but still determined army, quite different from the singing, cheering troops of some time ago, but still moving like clockwork. There were no signs of excitement before the beetling angry front, which has thrice proved impregnable within the past month. The same correspondent describes the continued retreat of the Russians on Monday, they gradually falling back in splendid order and admirable fashion. The line in contact with the enemy was visible for miles.

Liao Yang dispatches states that the Japanese employed two divisions against the Russian center, and the same force against Gen. Keller, with a strong force in support near Pensihu. The failure of the Russians to force the Japanese back through the passes, the penetrating of which meant disaster for the Czar's troops, is partially explained by the inadaptibility of the Russians to mountain warfare. Though brave and active, they were ineffective, and as a result, they suffered too great a percentage of casualties. The artillery on both sides displayed remarkable celerity. A Russian battery that was concealed at Kauliang at night was struck at 8 o'clock the next morning by a Japanese battery. Within 20 minutes it had take another safe position two miles away, and opened fire shortly after.

Same Old Squadron.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4. — The sailing of the cruiser division of the Baltic squadron has been postponed for a fortnight. The cruisers Oleg and the transport Kamtchatka are ready to go into commission. The vessels now commissioned are the battleship Alexander II., the battleship Navarin, the battleship Osliabia, the protected cruiser Aurora, the battleship Souvaroff, the battleship Oreland, two other cruisers, with a quiet flotilla of torpedo boats and destroyers.

Took Part of Cargo.

Vladivostock, Aug. 4. — The prize court has decided to confiscate such portion of the cargo of the Portland and Asiatic Line steamer Arabia (captured by an armored cruiser of the Vladivostock squadron), as was consigned to Japanese ports, namely, 5,900 pounds of flour and the railroad equipment, this portion constituting less than half the bulk and weight of her cargo, the remainder consisting of 142,500 pounds of flour consigned to Hong Kong. The confiscated portion of the cargo is now being unloaded. So soon as this is completed the steamer will be released.

Ready for Another Raid.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—The Vladivostock squadron will recoal and resume its raids at once, with full authority to sink ships under the Russian laws upon maritime seizures and prizes as they now stand. The Government has sustained those laws, which do not recognize any distinction between contraband that is on board an enemy's or contraband on board a neutral ship. In either case the ship may be sunk at the discretion of the officer who makes the seizure.

Russians Starving.

Rome, Aug. 3.—The Liao Yang correspondent of the newspaper Giornale D'Italia asserts that conditions among the Russians at the front are disastrous. The soldiers, he says, are dying of hunger. After a march, lasting 48 hours, they were given nothing but a piece of sugar. They have no bread and no meat. Provision trains arrive at long intervals only.

"Under these conditions," he adds, "the work of the troops is truly heroic."

DRESSES FROM ASBESTOS

Process That Converts Rocks Into Silky Fibre.

Orange, N. J., Aug. 4. — It is claimed by a resident of this place that he has invented a perfect process to convert asbestos rock into a beautiful, silky fibre, capable of being spun into cloth similar to silk. He allages the process is adapted especially to the manufacture of fine dress goods.

Besides being moth proof, it is said, the new material, is entirely fireproof.

$50,000 FIRE IN MONTREAL

Block on St. Paul Street Damaged —The Principal Losses.

Montreal, Aug. 4.—A fire, which occurred last night, in the block 608 St. Paul street, did nearly $50,000 damage before it was got under control. The principal losses are: W. D. Stroud & Sons, tea merchants, $25,000, fully insured; J. M. Taylor & Sons, produce merchants, $15,000, insured for $4,000; Monette & Fortier, produce merchants, partially insured.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

The Packers and Strikers May Have Another Conference.

Chicago, Aug. 4. — According to the leaders of the packing house strike powerful influences have been brought to bear on the packers, and peace negotiations will probably be renewed tomorrow afternoon between the strikers and their former employers.

The announcement was made by President Schardt, of the Federation of Labor, and J. J. Keppler, business agent Machinists' Union. Neither Mr. Schardt nor Mr. Keppler would reveal the identity of the peace-makers, but said that the men who are about to intercede were not identified with any of the peace efforts.

Mr. Keppler said that President Donnelly would return to the city today, and that the matter would be laid before him.

"I believe the parties who are trying to bring about another conference mean business," he said. "The labor men will meet them more than half way."

WEATHER BULLETIN.

Tomorrow—Thunderstorms.

London, Thursday, Aug. 4.

Sun rises..5:09 a.m. Moon rises..11:47 p.m.
Sun sets...7:38 p.m. Moon sets....1:03 a.m.

Toronto, Aug. 3—8 p.m.

Thunderstorms have been general in Manitoba today, and local showers have occurred in the Territories and Nova Scotia. Elsewhere the weather has been fine.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Calgary, 44—74; Qu'Appelle, 60—72; Winnipeg, 60—80; Parry Sound, 48—78; Toronto, 56—76; Ottawa, 54—78; Montreal, 58—76; Quebec, 52—78; Halifax, 60—64.

FORECASTS.

Thursday, Aug. 4—8 a.m.

Fine and decidedly warm today; winds increasing to fresh and strong breezes, southerly and westerly tonight and on Friday, with thunderstorms in many localities.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	54	48	Fair
Winnipeg	62	58	Clear
Parry Sound	64	50	Clear
Toronto	64	54	Clear
Ottawa	62	54	Fair
Montreal	68	58	Clear
Quebec	62	52	Clear
Father Point	62	54	Clear

WEATHER NOTES.

Thunderstorms have been general in Manitoba, but apparently no excessive rainfalls have occurred. Elsewhere in Canada the weather has been generally fine.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Wednesday were: Highest, 71°; lowest, 49°.

KRUGER DIED FORGIVING

"I No Longer Hate the English" Among His Last Words.

Cape Town, Aug. 4. — A letter from Dr. Muller, who was at the deathbed of ex-President Kruger of the Transvaal, says that shortly before his death Mr. Kruger said:

"I no longer hate the English. It is a pity there was a war, but I believe that everything will come out right in the end."

SCHAUMANN IMPRISONED

Father of Bobrikoff's Murderer in a St Petersburg Dungeon.

New York, Aug. 4. — General Schaumann, father of the assassin of General Bobrikoff, Governor-General of Finland, who was taken to St. Petersburg on July 29, is incarcerated in the dungeons of the St. Peter's and St. Paul's fortress, according to the Times' Helsingfors correspondent. There is profound indignation in Finland at this treatment of the general, whom nobody credits with complicity in his son's deed.

GREAT FOREST FIRES

Towns and Villages in Montana in Peril of Flames.

Kalispell, Mont., Aug. 4. — Fourteen distinct forest fires are raging in the vicinity and property valued at thousands of dollars is being eaten up by the flames, which have spread to several small towns along the Great Northern Railroad.

White Fish and Columbia Falls, two villages west of here, are entirely cut off from telephonic communication, and the wagon road to White Fish has been made impassable by the flames, which are raging on both sides of it. The latest arrivals from there, who left Tuesday night, report that several churches and other outlying property have been destroyed, and dwelling houses outside of the town are in great danger. It is thought, however, that unless a high wind should set in the main portion of the place will be saved.

Another large fire is raging near Dayton Creek, a heavily timbered section, and the pine forests of that section will be almost destroyed. The whole country is covered by a dense smoke.

Forest Supervisor Haines, with a large force of men, is fighting the flames as best they can, but owing to the extent of the burning district, he can do little. The side of a large mountain west of here is one mass of flames.

SEIZURE OF THE THEA

German Government to Make a Thorough Investigation.

Berlin, Aug. 4. — The German Government has begun an investigation into the sinking of the German steamer Thea by the Vladivostock squadron off the coast of Japan, preparatory to making representations at St. Petersburg. The Government wants to find out whether the Thea carried too little coal to steam to Vladivostock, and whether the provisions in her cargo, exceeded half the whole, thus subjecting the vessel to capture under the Russian prize regulations.

The foreign office probably will also institute an inquiry with the American owner of the cargo. The German Government admits that Vice-Admiral Skrydloff acted within the Russian prize regulations in capturing the Thea, but the officials intimate that the foreign office questions the right of capture when provisions are consigned to private firms instead of to a hostile government. The foreign office, however, says that no serious complications will grow out of the case.

TURNED GUNS ON THE HELPLESS

Russian Brutality at Sinking of Transport.

MASSACRED THE JAP SOLDIERS

British Captain and Officers of the Steamer Hipsang Are Prisoners at Port Arthur.

London, Aug. 4.—The Times has the following today from Vienna: An unfavorable impression has been created here by accounts of the conduct of the Vladivostock squadron towards the Japanese transport Hitachi Maru, which it sunk in June. It appears that instead of sinking the transport with a torpedo or a few large caliber shells between the wind and water line, the Russian vessels gradually approached their prey, and for well-nigh three hours massacred the Japanese soldiers by an incessant fire from their quick-fire and machine guns at short range. Of 37 survivors rescued by a Japanese fishing boat only three were unwounded.

The correspondent of the Times at Shanghai says: The captain and officers of the British steamship Hipsang, which was sunk by a Russian destroyer, remain in custody at Port Arthur. The British minister, replying to the application of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., for assistance in arranging their release, suggests that the matter be referred to the foreign office.

A trustworthy correspondent at Icheng reports that the murder of Belgian priests, recently reported, was due to local causes at a place where the mission was endeavoring to acquire land against the opposition of the leading native gentry. The latter apparently instigated the Koiaohui men to commit the outrage. Some of these men are alleged to be recent Protestant converts.

TURBULENCE AT PORT-AU-PRINCE

Soldiers and Populace Stone the American Citizens and Threaten the Syrians.

Port-au-Prince, Hayti, Aug. 4.—The city of Port-au-Prince is in a state of great disorder, Bands of soldiers, throwing stones, prevent the Syrians from reopening their stores. American citizens have hoisted the Stars and Stripes over their residences, and a number of them have sought refuge in the American legation, driving there in carriages flying the American flag, and pursued by the populace throwing stones.

Owing to the energetic remonstrances of the diplomatic corps the Government has decided to take measures to protect the peaceable inhabitants, and strong patrols of police have been sent to protect the Syrians' stores.

THE U. S. PUBLIC DEBT

At Close of July It Amounted to Nearly $1,000,000,000.

Washington, Aug. 4.—The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business July 31, 1904, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to $980,781,413, which is an increase for the month of $13,549,639. This increase is accounted for by the decrease of $14,945,662 in the amount of the cash balance in the treasury as compared with last month.

The debt is recapitulated as follows: Interest bearing debt, $895,157,540; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, $1,881,130; debt bearing no interest, $387,824,321; total, $1,284,862,992. This amount, however, does not include $1,003,728,969 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding, which are offset by an equal amount of cash on hand held for their redemption.

The cash in the treasury is classified as follows: Reserve fund, $150,000,000; trust funds, $1,003,728,969; general fund, $125,140,402; in national bank depositaries, $112,642,766; in treasury of Philipine Islands, $7,316,937; total, $1,398,829,075; against which there are demand liabilities outstanding amounting to $1,094,747,495, which leaves a cash balance on hand of $304,081,579.

STRIKE FOR MUSTACHES

Bordeaux Waiters Keep All Customers From the Cafes.

Bordeaux, Aug. 4. — Nearly all the waiters employed in the Bordeaux cafes and restaurants have gone on strike for higher pay. They also demand to be allowed to wear mustaches and to sit down when not actually at work.

Several bodies of strikers roamed about the city, collecting outside the served and hooting so vigorously that cafes where customers were being the non-strikers soon took off their aprons and joined the movement. All the waiters then helped to carry the chairs and tables inside, while the proprietors looked on helplessly.

In consequence of the paralyzed state of the cafes and restaurants, the bars throughout the city are doing a splendid business.

Pronounced Insane.

New York, Aug. 4. — The World says Mrs. Constance Phelan, who crossed the Atlantic on the Red Star Line steamship Kroonland, clad in a white decollette costume, is to be sent back to Europe on Saturday. The immigration officials and physicians pronounced her insane.

Drowned in Mill Race.

Alliston, Ont., Aug. 4.—William Cassidy, 25 years of age, was found drowned in the mill race here this morning. It is supposed to be a case of suicide.

Just Like Russell.

New York, Aug. 4.—Russell Sage, the financier, was 88 years of age today, and observed the anniversary by attending to business as usual.

RUSSIANS HAD RIGHT TO SINK

So Says the Captain of the Knight Commander.

ADMITS CARRYING CONTRABAND

Crew Says Many German, British and American Ships Were Chartered for Same Work.

Vladivostock, Aug. 4.—Having disposed of the Arabia case the prize court will now take up the cases of the ships sunk, four Japanese schooners, a Japanese steamer, the Thea, and the Knight Commander.

The crews of these vessels were taken off and are comfortably housed at the Government expense, although only the Japanese, as prisoners of war, are entitled thereto. The captain of the Knight Commander declares frankly that he recognizes the legality of sinking the ship, and is astonished at the claims made in the British press that there is no precedent for such "barbarity."

The Thea, according to the statement of her crew, was chartered at the opening of the war to carry contraband. She visited Moji, Japan, March 12, and had since called at Kobe, Yokohama, Hakodate, and other Japanese ports, several times. The crew also say that the Japanese freighted twenty German and many more British and American ships with contraband.

From the Japanese prisoners the reports of the sinking of two Japanese torpedo boats in the Straits of Korea, during the first cruise of the Vladivostock squadron, and of the damage sustained by three others, when the Japanese, during the cruise of the Russian squadron, mistook their own torpedo boat flotilla for that of the Russian, have been confirmed.

LORD ROSEBERY WITH CHAMBERLAIN

The Ex-Liberal Leader Favors an Imperial Conference on Preference.

London, Aug. 4.—A manifesto is being extensively signed by business men throughout Britain. It declines to indorse the Chamberlain policy so far as it embraces protection, on the ground that it increases production, but supports the policy of having for its fundamental basis a moderate tax on food, provided that the differential duties to be imposed by the colonies favor British goods. It recommends that an imperial conference be summoned in order that the nature of the trade advantages the colonies can offer and receive from the Motherland be clearly understood.

Lord Rosebery, in a letter to the Times in connection with the proposed colonial conference, says:

"There should be a clear basis for the conference drawn up in conjunction with the colonies; a basis agreed to by both parties."

Lord Rosebery adds his firm conviction that unless such a conference be desired by the colonies and assembled on plain basis arranged, and freed from party taint, it may do more harm than good.

Mr. Chamberlain, writing to the Times, welcomes Lord Rosebery's letter, as indicating another change of front, which will carry him back to the patriotic attitude of 1888, when he was ready to die in the cause of imperial federation. He (Mr. Chamberlain) had not made the suggestion of a colonial conference before, as it seemed desirable to test the opinion of the country on an offer which he still maintained was made by the colonies at the conference of premiers. He entirely agreed with Lord Rosebery that the wishes of the colonies should be an essential condition, but was afraid that Lord Rosebery was imperfectly informed as to the real issue. To suggest a conference on preference while rigidly excluding all reference to taxes on food would be in the present circumstances a childish and almost insulting proposition.

William M. Lucas, honorary secretary of the Liberal Tariff League, declares that every Liberal must be gratified by Lord Rosebery's prompt indorsement of Mr. Chamberlain's proposal for a colonial conference. A conference would be a clean slate, and if not indorsing Mr. Chamberlain, would yet throw a welcome light on the difficult question.

The Graphic says the Liberals must either repudiate Lord Rosebery or admit that summoning a new colonial conference is prima facie a reasonable method of settling the preferential tariff dispute. If the colonies find themselves unable or unwilling to reduce their present protective duties on British goods further negotiations would be useless.

Sir Howard Vincent's question regarding an imperial conferences comes up on Monday.

Obstruction Removed.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 4. — The Reid Wrecking Company of Sarnia has removed the last of the steamer Minnesota, which was burned and sunk in St. Clair River last October, and since that time has been an obstruction to navigation. The Minnesota was near the head of Russell Island.

Must Stay in Jail.

Toronto, Ont., Aug. 4.—Another attempt was made today to secure the release of J. W. Whitesides, the Toronto policeman sent to jail for selling liquor without a license in Darlington Township. A previous attempt was referred by Judge Aylmer to the divisional court, but this court does not meet until Sept. 10. An application for bail in the meantime was made this morning, but Judge Idington declined to interfere.