ussians In Captivity

ugees From Sunken War hips Arrive at Colombo in British Ship.

ing of Censor's Embargo Proves to Have a String Attached.

orted Defeat of Russian Vanguard at the Yalu With Great Loss.

CIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON MES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

ndon, Feb. 23.—The Colombo, Cey- correspondent of the London Times s that the governor has received spatch from Colonial Secretary eton informing him that within a time three hundred and twenty-five ian sailors, survivors of the battle hemulpo, will arrive on a British for detention in Ceylon pending pleasure of the Russian govern-

despatch from Brussels to the Lon- Times states that enormous quanti- of revolvers are being shipped from actory there to St. Petersburg. The ons are intended for the Far East. e Paris correspondent of the Lon- Times states that St. Petersburg, ne of peace, one of the most diffi- places for journalistic effort, has nly become a great centre for for- correspondents. The continental is at present flooded with large rams and letters from the Russian al. While the decision apparently taken to suspend the censorship on ws sent abroad from Russia was a rise, the fact that it was stated all war news must pass the censor, ies the other order.

e sudden rush of the Russian govent into publicity has aroused sus- in many quarters, where the ion is being asked: "What is be- the move?" It is inconceivable the Russian government, which is reat pains to conceal every im- t happening in time of peace, d now want to make public every hing of importance. A number of g diplomats and army and naval e are inclined to believe that, in ting all manner of sensational s to be spread broadcast, Russia to influence the stock market in e, and thus cause a diversion thout favoring Russia.

sk Well-Nigh Impossible

eral Kuropatkin About to Undertake a Practical Impossibility.

rian Military Experts Point t Defects in the Russian System.

AL CABLE TO THE LONDON ES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

ndon, Feb. 23.—The Vienna corre- nt of the London Times states the ncement of the appointment of Kuropatkin to the supreme com- of the Russian army in Manchuria ported there as indicating that Rus- ognizes the gravity of the situa- While admitting that General Ku- in is up to his ends the best of the n commanders and admitting e man of all others to handle the on, Austrian military experts de- that he has assumed a well nigh ble task. "I cannot do more ny one else, they declare, as he is apped by the mistakes that have made in St. Petersburg in not put- e army in Manchuria on a war oung age. Manchuria, experts de- is like South Africa in that great y reputations are bound to be ere. Ie remains, therefore, to be whether General Kuropatkin who t had an organized foe to deal nce Plevna will demonstrate that prehends the change in modes of e that the past quarter of a cen- e brought forth.

IEVING SHORTAGE N FOOD AND FUEL

r Weather Will Permit Re- turn to Normal in East.

real, Feb. 22.—The railways to- ported that freight was moving reely today in Ontario than for th past, and that if the mild r continues they would soon be get things in fair shape again lieve the famine now existing at oints, not merely for fuel, but d supplies. Another storm is l waging in western Ontario to- d so railway men are not confi- at the worst is yet over. The e has seriously retarded freight nts from St. John, but yester- o long freights passed through al and were followed by others o that steamers in the port there n be able to find cargoes.

dealers today again advanced e of flour fifteen cents per bar- king a total of sixty-five cents ast month. The Montreal Master Association is keeping the pace. ve increased the price of bread its a large loaf. They say that goes to $5.75, they will put on cent, and if it touches $6 it increased by two cents more. crease is quite likely.

hermometer today touched 36 the highest point since Decem-

National Club will banquet the ministers March 7 at Palace otel. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is ex- o attend.

1840 the world's production of s been increased 67 per cent and per cent.

satisfaction of having the done early in the day, ll done, belongs to every Sunlight Soap. 10B

The Germans As Colonizers

Baron Von Sternburg Addresses American Academy of Political Science.

Growth of European and American Interests in the Far East.

Philadelphia, Feb. 22.—Baron Speck Von Sternburg, the German ambassador to the United States, upon whom the University of Pennsylvania today conferred the degree of doctor of laws, was the principal speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the Academy of Political and Social Science at the New Century drawing room tonight. His subject was the "Germans as Colonizers."

Baron Von Sternberg, after referring at length to the part taken by German emigrants in "elevating the United States to its present greatness, concluded as follows:

"Time is too short for me to dwell on the history and development of German colonies in Africa and in the Pacific, but I think it may be of interest to you to hear a few words about her Chinese possession, Kiow Chow, since the eyes of the world are turned towards the battleground in the Far East, where the greatest political and social problems which ever confronted the statesman and the diplomatist, dormant for centuries, are now ripe for solution.

"That the time was rapidly approaching was keenly felt by all students of the Far East long ago, that to have a voice in the impending great councils of nations which should decide on the fate and future of China. They above all would need naval strongholds, and to reap the advantages of the great coming trade of the Far East, they would need harbors and trade emporiums. With this backing they knew that they would be forced to the rear, thus permitting the more powerful to reap the stupendous advantages which the future of China have in store. England already possessed Hongkong in the south, to which she added after the China-Japanese war in 1894 the harbor and naval base of Wei-Hai-Wei, in Shan Tung.

"Russia gained, after the same war, the famous naval stronghold of Port Arthur and the port of Talien Wan, where, within a few years, has sprung up one of the finest cities and trade emporiums in the Far East. The Spaniards brought to the United States the Philippines, with excellent harbors, most valuable, both for strategical and commercial purposes. The already great value of these islands on China's eastern flank will be enormously enhanced after the opening of the Panama canal. They will be the great eastern trade emporiums of the United States, and where will radiate her commerce, feeding a Chinese coast line of about two thousand miles, studded with rich harbors, most of them in the infancy of their development. The strategical position of Subig bay and other harbors is apparent even to the layman.

"France, as we know, controls a large portion of the southern frontier of China, bordering on her vast Indo-Chinese possessions. Japan's strategical and commercial position is known to you all. When Germany procured the harbor of Kiao Chow from the Chinese government in 1899, her first step was to open it to the trades of the world.

"The laws and rules governing trade and commerce and settlements there are considered the most liberal ever framed for a colony, the only close restrictions being those relating to public health. Regular steamship lines were soon established and the building of railroads taken in hand, so as to keep the various resources of Shantung, especially its coal deposits. The German government has strictly adhered to the principle of placing the construction of railroads into private hands.

"Grave fear and alarm was expressed by all concerned in the steadily growing trade of the Far East when war clouds out there were threatening to burst. It was the farseeing eye of the Washington government which saved China from chaos and dismemberment during the Boxer troubles of 1900. New flames again threaten to arise from the still smouldering ashes. But in the right moment we again see the same ever watchful government rise and invite the powers of the world to act in concert so as to preserve the integrity of China, and to prevent a conflagration, the limit of which no human mind would be able to foretell. Through this strong and able stroke, not only the powers at peace, but also those in war, will reap the great benefits, and it is to be hoped that the vast and increasing Chinese trade will develop undisturbed."

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION IN PARIS FACTORY

Many Asphyxiated and Then Incinerated—Fourteen Unidentified Dead.

Paris, Feb. 20.—An explosion occurred today in a factory in the Rue de Antoue.

The explosion occurred in a room on the fourth story and drove bricks and pieces of glass against a house on the other side of the street and immediately afterwards enormous jets of flame burst out of the windows. Soon the entire structure was on fire. Simultaneously with the appearance of the flames a number of men and women employed on the upper stories and who had been eating their luncheon, appeared at the window and shrieked for assistance. Three men attempted to drop from a window to a balcony beneath, but missed it and fell to the pavement below and were killed. The firemen rescued several persons. When the flames were under control five victims were found in a corridor leading to the street. They had been asphyxiated and then incinerated. In all fourteen bodies, all unidentified, were conveyed to the morgue. Five persons were badly burned, two may die.

HIS ACCOUNTS SHORT.

Seymour, Ind., Feb. 22.—Cyrus E. McCrady, cashier of the First National Bank, and treasurer of the Co-operative Building and Loan Association, has admitted his accounts are short with the two institutions. The amount is estimated to be $14,500 with the bank, and $13,000 with the Building and Loan Association. Mr. McCrady's property, valued at from $15,000 to $18,000, has been turned over to a trustee for his creditors. Both institutions are secured by bonds.

CAUGHT IN SPOKANE.

Spokane, Feb. 22.—John Thamer, wanted at Toronto, Ontario, on a charge of forgery alleged to have been committed in 1901, has been captured in Spokane. He has consented to return without extradition. Thamer has been working in Spokane for nearly two years under an assumed name.

Toronto, Feb. 22.—John Shaver, arrested at Spokane according to the Associated Press Despatch, is wanted at Ayr, Ont., charged with a forgery of $2,000 or $3,000 on the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Detective Rogers left tonight to get him.

The pension issue of the United States last year was the largest in 104 years; the issue for the first quarter of the present year exceeds the same period last year by 25 per cent.

ITALIANS FRIENDLY.

Rome, Feb. 22.—Foreign Minister Tittoni, answering a question in the Chamber of Deputies today in regard to the Far Eastern situation, said Italy maintains friendly relations with both the belligerent nations, having promised to observe neutrality and would do so. He protested against anti-Russian manifestations, "especially as negotiations on matters of vital importance to this country are taking place between Italy and Russia." It was presumed that Signor Tittoni referred to the commercial treaty which is being negotiated between Italy and Russia.

SYMPATHY WITH CZAR.

Servians Favor Russian Cause and Will Not Foment Balkan Trouble.

Paris, Feb. 22.—M. Popovitch, the Servian minister here, said today: "From the time of the rupture of relations between the Japanese and Russia, the sympathy of all Servians has been with the Czar, many of whom have sought service under his colors. In Servia there is no intention to seek profit by the Russian embarrassment to foment a revolt in the Balkans. I believe this also is the attitude of the other Balkan states. Without the support of Austria and Russia they would be powerless to settle the situation as they wish. Should war break out in the Balkans, Russia and Austria would intervene in order to prevent a change in the status quo. Moreover, war would be dangerous because if would end in economic disaster and the financial and industrial situation of the principalities would be gravely embarrassed in any case. Servia only asks to be allowed to collaborate in the work of applying the reform in Macedonia.

The only large cities in the United States that have not a large German population are Boston, with less than 5 per cent Germans, and Washington, D. C., with 7 per cent.

Japan's Readiness For Hostilities

Mail Advices Show Island Empire Took Absolutely no Chances.

After the State Council Meeting Sasebo Squadron Cleared For Action.

By the steamer Athenian which arrived from the Orient yesterday some further notes of the conditions immediately preceding the outbreak of war in Japan were obtained. According to those advices all hopes of peace had been abandoned by the Japanese people late in January when the days dragged on without any attempt on the part of Russia to reply to Japan's earnest note. Gradually the spirit of the people rose as it dawned upon them that Russia was perpetrating a studied insult to their country. Quotations from the Russian press, particularly Novoe Vremya, which recently referred to the coming humiliation of "that race of contemptible barbarian pigmies," (meaning the Japanese), have not failed of the effect to be expected. Some of the Japanese papers were passionately counseling the government to decline to receive Russia's answer, but to proceed with preparations for war as if all negotiations had been broken off. As a rule, however, the tone of the press was temperate and dignified, showing a patience and forbearance greatly admired by the foreigner.

When the rumor was circulated that the Russian note in reply, drawn up by the Imperial Russian State Council, and sanctioned by the Czar, contained not one word in reference to Manchuria, the main subject of contention in Japan's note, popular feeling rose to a high pitch, and exasperation was not concealed. The press and many of the public men said that Russia's tardiness was tantamount to a challenge to war. The whole nation keenly felt the slight and insult implied in the leisurely manner in which the flags of Japan, Great Britain and the United States mingled, and were cheered enthusiastically, were going on everywhere. Every merchant in the empire was ready to shut up shop and go to the war, if necessary.

A grand parade of the Imperial Cavalry took place on the military grounds at Tokio just before the steamer left, and was witnessed by hundreds of thousands of people wild with enthusiasm as the cavalry performed their evolutions. The officers indicate that they say that the Japanese cavalry numbered several thousands, that they went through their manoeuvres with splendid precision and that the impression of military men looking on was that, as cavalry or mounted infantry, that body would be very hard to beat anywhere. The Mikado reviewed the squadrons as they went past.

RUSHING PREPARATIONS.

An intense anti-Russian feeling pervades every class, from the nobles to the coolies, but the police actively suppress any hostile demonstrations against Russia or Russians. On the other hand, Britain and America are looked upon as the friends of the nation. When the Lyra sailed elaborate transport preparations had been begun in the ports at the south of Japan, where a great fleet of merchant steamers were being put into condition for the conveyance of troops. While the utmost secrecy was maintained as to the disposition or movements of troops or naval vessels, it could be seen that not a moment was being lost in the preparations for the inevitable. Nothing was left to chance. At the fortified ports enormous quantities of war material were being collected, the railways being engaged night and day with special trains carrying all sorts of goods for the use of the navy, army and fortification troops. Big guns were to be seen in transport by at the price of ninety-five yen per hundred yen, face value, to be redeemed within five years. He asked the bankers to make efforts to that end. The bankers asked the time of flotation, the means of raising the loan, what steps the government were going to take to protect commercial and industrial enterprises. Some advised the government to keep a proper balance between sale price of bonds and quotations ruling in the economic market. Another meeting between the government and the bankers was arranged for February 19th at the Mitsui Club.

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The Japanese newspapers war correspondents met in Tokio and passed a resolution that the time for opening hostilities was at hand, that delay to take action would be a great blunder, and urging the ministry and the general public not to miss the present opportunity. As a result, Messrs. Furushima, of the Nippon and Fukuda, of the Niroku, waited upon the premier to present the resolution. The premier replied that the government was then unable to make a public announcement, but would do so at the opportune moment.

SPLENDID GUNNERY.

When coming up from Manila, nearing the Japanese coast, a squadron of large war vessels, painted the sea color, slate or lead, and stripped for action, were seen at practice. The ships were circling round a rocky islet, on which was the target, marked with a red flag. The Lyra's officers observed that splendid practice was being made, the shells striking within a radius of twenty feet of the flag every time. The vessels belonged to the Nagasaki division of the Japanese navy, and must have been the very ships which were a few hours later engaged in wiping Russia's name off the list of naval stations at Port Arthur.

The Japanese government chartered three large British transports the day before the Lyra sailed, which was taken as a significant indication of the nearness of the conflict. The strange thing to Europeans about the Japanese preparations was the absolute secrecy maintained by all. The newspapers are simply muzzled, and cannot give any news regarding the naval or military dispositions of the government's forces. Thus the ordinary people, the masses, are practically ignorant of the serious enterprise in which the nation is embarking. Everywhere, though, the feeling against the Russians was found to be intense, and the natives of that country resident in Japan were quickly clearing out at the end of January.

Part of the Lyra's cargo consists of 700 tons of raw sulphur from Tamusi, Formosa, for the Victoria Chemical Works. She has besides 300 tons of general freight for this port. She is expected to get away for the Sound this afternoon. The sulphur is put up in fibre mats, something after the style of the rice mats.

The Lyra did not sight the steamer Tremont, as the east and west tracks across the Pacific are sixty miles apart, the north track being the westward one.

The Lyra, Tremont and Shawmut will maintain a freighting service to and from the Orient until further notice.

YOUNG MORGAN'S BRIDE.

George Dennison Morgan, the swift and pleasure-loving nephew of the famous Pierpont Morgan, has been giving the Japanese newspapers and public plenty to print and talk about. After a short residence in the land of the Rising Sun, he decided to mate with one of the Geisha girls. Had he chosen a Geisha of the first class nobody would have wondered so much, but he selected a comparatively low damsel from the fifth class Geishas, which her name, it was Miss Yuki-Kato, of Kyoto, implies. Mr. Morgan paid forty thousand yen to the parents for the privilege of marrying Yuki, and besides, he spent a small fortune in getting himself a wardrobe composed of the fanciest clothes ever devised by Japanese tailors, before the Japanese had adopted our civilization and took up the barbarism of the West. The gorgeousness of those robes may be imagined when it is related that every page proper in Japan printed columns of description of their matchless glories. They were really fit for a prince, a samurai of the most indigo shade of blue. Wherever Mr. and Mrs. Morgan went up and down the country, the papers published glowing accounts of the splendor of the outfit in a way to make the American yellow journals look like annual reports of the Quaker Benevolent Society. As the hero of this peculiarly Morganatic marriage squandered the largesse with a truly patrician carelessness wherever he went, the Japanese papers had some ground for their fireworks of admiration marks and italics. After dispensing backsheesh in a way that will certainly deprave the tip-receivers at all the Japanese hotels, the pair left for America. George Dennison is proud of the fact that nobody has ever cut quite so wide a swath as he in the land of the chrysanthemum or chrysanthe-Mumm, as he will always recollect the country.

RITHET & CO'S REPORT.

In their report for January just issued Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Co. say:

There is nothing of interest transpiring in the grain freight market. Rates remain nominally about 12s. 6d., with little or no enquiry. The disengaged tonnage is being gradually lessened by departures in ballast and by vessels finding employment in the lumber trade. Lumber freights remain steady, with only a moderate demand. We quote freights as follows:

Grain—San Francisco to Cork, f. o., 11s. 3d. to 12s. 6d. Portland to Cork, f. o., 17s. 6d. Tacoma and Seattle to Cork, 16s. 3d.

Lumber—British Columbia or Puget Sound to Sydney, 27s. 6d. to 30s.; Melbourne or Adelaide, 31s. 3d. to 32s. 6d.; Port Pirie, 30s. to 31s. 3d.; Fremantle, 37s. 6d. to 40s.; Shanghai, 35s. to 37s. 6d.; Kiao-Chiau, 35s.; Talien, 37s. 6d. to 40s.; Vladivostock, 40s.; West Coast, S. A., 27s. 6d. to 31s. 3d.; South Africa, 48s., 9d. to 51s. 3d.; United Kingdom or Continent, 45s. to 47s. 6d.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

The latest notice issued by the department of marine and fisheries draws attention to the following:

A spar buoy has been established by the government of Canada off Hornby island wharf close southward of the reef to the westward of wharf. The buoy is painted black and is moored in three fathoms water.

From the buoy, Yellow island east lighthouse bears S. 19 degrees E. distant 1½ miles, and the extreme of Shingle spit N. 72 degrees W.

A buoy has been established by the government of Canada on the north extreme of Tatteuham ledge, east Thormanby island. The buoy consists of a square, wooden platform surmounted by a sentwork pyramid, the whole painted black. It is moored in 4½ fathoms water.

On the 21st December, 1903, a bell buoy of United States government pattern was established by the government of Canada off the eastern entrance to the crossing over Kelp bar. The buoy is of steel, painted red, and is surmounted by a bell rung by the motion of the buoy on the waves. It is moored in 25 fathoms. 5½ cables outside the outer spar buoy in the crossing. From the buoy, Goose spit beacon bears S. 64 degrees W., distant 2 miles 7½ cables, and highest tree on Sandy island S. 28 degrees E.

Distress After Eating

Nausea between meals, belching, vomiting, flatulence, fits of nervous headache, pain in the stomach, are all symptoms of dyspepsia, and the longer it is neglected the harder it is to cure it.

Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills

Radically and permanently cure it—strengthen and tone the stomach and other digestive organs for the *natural* performance of their functions.

Accept no substitute for Hood's.

"My appetite was gone; nothing tempted me to eat, and what little I did eat felt annoying and unpleasant in my stomach. I tried many remedies without any benefit whatever. Finally, Hood's Sarsaparilla having been recommended, I began its use. After taking one bottle my stomach would retain food, and my appetite began to improve. After taking three bottles I was completely cured." WILLIAM ROSS, Wellington street, Sarnia, Ontario.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.

Arrives From Oriental Ports

Steamer Lyra Reaches Victoria After a Stormy Passage From Japan.

Interesting Budget of News From Yokohama and Seat of War.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The steamer Lyra, 3,650 tons, Capt. George V. Williams, of the Boston Tugboat Company, arrived yesterday morning from Yokohama after one of the roughest passages ever made by her across the Pacific. The voyage lasted nearly twenty days, the steamship battling with fierce hurricanes most of the way. The Lyra brings probably the most valuable cargo ever shipped from Japan to America, consisting of articles for the Japanese exhibit at the St. Louis exposition, including contributions from the Mikado's own private collection. Amongst the articles is a case of Japanese coins valued at twelve thousand dollars. There are specimens of armor showing the evolution of defensive body covering in Japan for more than two thousand years; specimens of the marvelous sabres of Japan, rail every day, some going to the Nagasaki division, others north to the Yeso districts.

The confidence of all classes in the ability of Japan to defeat Russia was made apparent at all times; no one seemed to doubt for a moment that the country would beat the Russians from the first. For many weeks previous to the sailing of the Lyra the Japanese naval vessels had been at target practice at all the government stations, and witnesses of the practice made say that the percentage of hits made was surprisingly high.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

The managing directors of the leading banks of Tokio, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya and Yokohama conferred with Count Katsura, premier, at the official residence, Tokio, on January 28th, when the premier explained the financial position of the government. If, he said, the negotiations unfortunately end in rupture, the government would be confronted with financial and economic problems. His Majesty was also paying much attention to this question of finances, and shared with his subjects their concern in the matter. The premier hoped that when the government was compelled to issue national loan bonds, the bankers would exert their influence for the sake of their sovereign and the state. Baron Komura said Japan's proposals to Russia were preferred with a desire to maintain the national prestige and rights, and that the demands were far from excessive. Baron Sone said that, in the case of an outbreak of war, the government would be compelled to resort to increased taxation and other measures to create sources of revenue. The urgent step to be taken was the issue of national loan bonds. The government intended to raise a loan at 5 per cent. interest, inland win gold and silver and set with precious stones. Pictures showing the development of art in Nippon for centuries; Cloisonne, Imari and Satsuma vases and porcelain vessels of indescribable beauty and of priceless value; ivory carving, gold lacquer work, inlaid cabinets, temple antiquities, bronzes of wonderful workmanship, tapestries from the ancient palaces of the Mikados and the rare material for the construction of a Japanese village, to be erected in the Japanese concession at the exposition. The total value of the shipment cannot be computed, but it runs easily into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, while much of the material, if lost or destroyed, could never be replaced.

The Lyra left just before the outbreak of war, but the feeling then was intense. Immense crowds besieged the military and naval offices demanding enrolment with the colors, eager to go to the front. Patriotic displays, in which the flags of Japan, Great Britain and the United States mingled, and were cheered enthusiastically, were going on everywhere. Every merchant in the empire was ready to shut up shop and go to the war, if necessary.

A grand parade of the Imperial Cavalry took place on the military grounds at Tokio just before the steamer left, and was witnessed by hundreds of thousands of people wild with enthusiasm as the cavalry performed their evolutions. The officers indicate that they say that the Japanese cavalry numbered several thousands, that they went through their manoeuvres with splendid precision and that the impression of military men looking on was that, as cavalry or mounted infantry, that body would be very hard to beat anywhere. The Mikado reviewed the squadrons as they went past.

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Dominated By An Unsafe Man

U. S. Representative Afeard Least Uncle Sam Gets to Much Navy.

At Present Pace In Twenty Years John Bull Will Be Second.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The House today began consideration of the naval appropriations bill, ten hours being allowed for general debate.

During the discussion Mr. Fitzgerald (Dem., N. York), declared that the United States naval programme was to procure a naval force greater than Germany. He added that he expected an official denial.

Admiral Dewey, he said, in a hearing before the naval committee, made the statement: "I think we ought to be a little ahead of any country that is likely to attack us. I think if we were to have 48 battleships in twenty years they would let us alone."

Mr. Fitzgerald inquired who could say that at the end of twenty years the policy of the government might require a navy practically equal to that of Great Britain. Continuing, Mr. Fitzgerald said:

"There is a growing feeling of unrest in this country. There is an almost universal belief, even among its friends, that the present administration is dominated by an unsafe man.

"If the prevailing belief is justified and if the President is to be given four years of power in his own right, now that the great representative of the conservative force of the Republican party, the late Senator from Ohio, Mr. Hanna, is gone to his reward, it may be wise for us to outdo even Great Britain in our naval programme.

"Is it the part of wisdom to encourage an unsafe and impetuous and adventure-loving executive by loose talk and with big appropriations? Should he not be made to feel that the sentiment of this country is for peace and not strife?"

He declared that a shrewdly conducted movement had been initiated two years ago to cultivate a public spirit in favor of a mighty navy, and that so "stupendous have the expenditures for the naval and military establishments become that important and needed public improvements have been deferred."

Referring to Admiral Dewey's statement that the sea force should consist of 48 battleships, Mr. Fitzgerald said that confirmed his assertion that the naval programme is based upon the theory that the American navy should be larger than that of Germany.

"It is time to call a halt upon such talk of an inflammatory character, that is heard throughout this land, declared Mr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald quoted the following from the report of the naval committee: "The rapidly developing complications of the whole Eastern situation demand that our navy shall be as effective as possible."

"Why," he asked, "what have we to fear except the impetuosity of our present chief executive?"

Cabinet of Seeds.—The department of agriculture has been placed in receipt of a cabinet containing a collection of one hundred varieties of economic seeds from the seed laboratory of the department of agriculture, Ottawa. The collection embraces seeds of most of the grasses, clovers and weeds, so that any seed can be identified by comparison. It, therefore, cannot fail to be of the greatest utility to farmers and others who wish to be informed on the subject of seeds. It is intended to be used in connection with lectures at farmers' institute meetings, but is to be seen at any time on application to the deputy minister of agriculture.

Westward Ho!—The special colonist rate on the transcontinental railroads becomes effective next week, and the first trains of the year bearing new settlers will leave Eastern terminals a week from yesterday. The special $25 rate from St. Paul becomes effective March 1, and will continue in effect during March and April. It will then be dropped until after crops are in. The transcontinental railroads will quote the reduced fares again between September 15 and October 15. The reports made to the immigration bureaus of transcontinental lines indicate that there will be a big rush West during the coming two months. Inquiries have been especially heavy from the middle western states, and the lecturers the railways have had in the field have reported an unusual interest has been aroused.

England gets about $5,000,000 worth of new gold from Africa every month and $7,000,000 worth out of Australia.

FRANCE EXPLAINS JIBUTIL AFFAIR

Neutrality Laws Allow Belligerent Warships Extended Stay in Port.

Paris, Feb. 20.—Exchange of communications of a friendly character have occurred between France and Japan with respect to the stay of the Russian squadron at Jibutil, French Somaliland. France did not hesitate to make a complete explanation of her reason for ordering the Russian ships to depart, and it is said in reliable quarters this explanation was thoroughly satisfactory to the Japanese government. The frankness with which the French government dealt with the question is gratifying to the Japanese diplomats, and it is asserted that there is no reason to believe any friction will arise between the two countries regarding the incident. It is now explained that France's neutrality instructions while specifying the limit of stay to be twenty-four hours, differs from the Engish neutrality laws in that this provision is hedged about by various conditions which enable an extension of the time during which a belligerent may remain in a French port. France seeks, as she has told Japan and the other powers, to maintain an attitude of loyal neutrality and has no intention of departing from this policy. But as far as ordering the Russian ships to leave Jibutil, this has not been done, as to have done so would have aroused the French people, whose sympathies with Russia, at first inkowniun, would have become exceedingly keen and this Japan and certainly her ally do not desire. The officials also say France showed her fairness to the belligerent during the Spanish-American war when an American auxiliary cruiser tried to make repairs in the French West Indies. Spain then endeavored to have the cruiser compelled to leave forthwith, but the French authorities did not require a rigid enforcement of the regulations and the cruiser was permitted to remain until her repairs were completed. It is claimed this American precedent justifies the stay of the Russians at Jibutil.

It is recognized in diplomatic circles that the Jibutil precedent may become a serious one for France, especially if a Japanese squadron attempts to come to the Atlantic to operate against the Russians in the Baltic.

The Rev. Dr. Wilbur Fiske Walker of Tientsin and his Chinese colleague, Lo Chi Ming, will represent the North China conference at the general conference of the Methodist church in Los Angeles, Cal., next May.

Worked With Burleigh.—It is not generally known to Victorians that Mr. J. J. Martin, secretary of the Merchant Service Guild of Canada, was at one time a journalist fellow-workman of Mr. Bennett Burleigh, the world-famous war correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph. It was just after the American civil war, and both men found themselves on newspaper staffs in Houston, Texas. Mr. Martin was correspondent for the Galveston Daily News, and Mr. Burleigh was roustabout for the Houston Telegraph. Burleigh's fine, bluff manner made him many friends amongst the Texans, while his vivid style commended itself to their taste at once. He was a hearty, genial fellow at all times, but betrayed in many ways the shrewd, calculating disposition of the Scot. He and Mr. Martin were intimately associated in many pieces of journalistic enterprise, and Mr. Burleigh even then gave ample evidence of the peculiar talents which so eminently qualified him for the rough, perilous and always hard work of war correspondent. He was a fine rider, handy with all sorts of arms, possessed a sturdy physique and a cool self-confidence that must have stood him in good stead in many a tight corner in his campaigning on four continents. Mr. Burleigh remained in Texas until the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war, which he followed for the London papers, and also went through the horrors of the Commune. He reported the Servo-Turkish, Russo-Turkish, Ashantee, early and late Soudan, early Boer, Greco-Turkish and the great Boer campaigns. Next to the novelties presented by war correspondents, the late Archibald Forbes, Bennett Burleigh is probably the most experienced man in his peculiar line. When he gets in his work on the present war it will be interesting to compare the notes of the veteran of half a hundred campaigns with the work of his rivals. Burleigh has a style as straightforward and simple as his speech. Few men alive have seen more of what General Tecumseh Sherman said was the best earthly representation of hell.

Nanaimo Escapes A Serious Fire

Big Sawmill Plant Scorche Bu Saved By Quick Action of Employees.

Trial of An Interesting Case Under the Children's Protection Act.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nanaimo, Feb. 20.—What might have been a conflagration terminating in a loss of six figures broke out at the Nanaimo sawmill this afternoon near the main driving engine, sweeping up into the big shed and garret. Fire-fighting appliances were fortunately at hand and a splendid head of water. After a short, hard fight, it was got under control, but although the financial loss is slight, the destruction of the big driving belt shuts the mill down for some days.

A case of more than local interest came up in the local Police court yesterday, involving as it did, a claim against the city under the Children's Protection Act, which happens to be the first of its kind made in the province. Mr. C. J. South, the secretary of the Society which charges itself with the work of looking after neglected children, applied, on behalf of that organization, for the custody of the six children of an Italian, Mrs. Mascheda. It appeared from the evidence that the eldest, a girl of fifteen, had been slaving herself almost to death keeping the home together, the family being supported partly by the earnings of the girl, partly by the gifts of the charitable and partly by allowances from the city and government. The mother, under the plea of ill-health, had done practically nothing, and appeared rather to regard her family as a mortgage on the several public and private purses upon which she levied toll. Meanwhile the children were growing up under conditions which bade fair to add them to the criminal population, and the appearance of several of them in court two or three times led the city authorities to communicate with Mr. South with a view to their removal. It was at this point that the curious part of the affair came in, for, in spite of the steps already taken, the city opposed the application, having discovered meanwhile that a claim for maintenance was to be made. The mother did not oppose the application for, and it was evident that it would be granted, when Mr. Young,, on behalf of the city, contended that, as the family came into Nanaimo from Victoria as paupers living at the public charge, and as the government had acknowledged responsibility by contributing ten dollars a month towards their maintenance, to which the city subsequently added five, there was no reason why the city should be charged with the cost of the maintenance of the children in Vancouver. He further contended that no case had been made out for their removal. Magistrate Yarwood made short work of this latter point by referring to the letters written by the mayor and the chief of police which had resulted in Mr. South's visit. He granted the order for the removal of the body of the children and their immediate removal to the home at Vancouver, and another order that the city contribute one dollar a week for the maintenance of each of the five younger ones. This is the first time such an order has been made against a city.

Dooley, the colored man who carved another colored man with a razor at Ladysmith a few days ago, was tried by Judge Harrison yesterday and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Dooley was the hero of a remarkable escapade which occurred here some years ago. He and two others captured a provincial constable, handcuffed him to a telegraph pole with his own handcuffs and robbed him of his revolver, money, lantern and other portables. Dooley did five years for his little joke.

YOUNG LADY'S LEG CUT OFF.

London, Ont., Feb. 22.—(Special.)—Miss May Armstrong, daughter of Irving Armstrong, of Exeter, a well-known cattle dealer, fell under the G. T. R. train and had her right leg cut off. Her condition is serious.

BRIBED CHINESE OFFICIALS.

London, Feb. 22.—A Tokio correspondent of Reuter Telegraph Company says he learns from a reliable source that the Russian minister to China, Paul Lessar, has successfully bribed Chinese officials with the result that the instructions given the Russian gunboat Mandjur to leave Shanghai were cancelled.

The Japanese government considers this to be a breach of Chinese neutrality and is taking steps in the matter.

CATTLE STEAMER BEACHED.

London, Feb. 22.—The British steamer Lake Michigan, from St. John, N. B., which was beached in a sinking condition near Dungeness, after a collision with the bark Matterhorn, has two feet of water in her first hold and twenty-five feet in her engine room. The cattle on board the Lake Michigan are all right and have enough water for two days. Pumps have been put on board, and it is hoped that with a continuance of the fine weather the vessel can be floated within forty-eight hours.

Some members of the U. S. congress were discussing Senator Gorman's presidential boom when one of them recalled the fact that the Maryland man in his youth had been a crack baseball player. "Yes, and his delivery is still good," said another, "and his curves keep most of them guessing yet."

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