RUSSIA'S LINE OF DEEENCE

General Kouropatkin Has Selected a Strong Position.

A STRONG POSITION.

While the first line of defence against the Japanese advance from Corea is a strong position, selected by Gen. Kouropatkin near Feng-Huang-Cheng, it is believed the Russians intend to hold out so long as possible at Antung, which commands the Pekin road. The place has many natural advantages for defence.

Gen. Kuroki's army, according to Russian advices, is strong out along the road between Anju and Wiju, its advance being severely impeded by bad roads, which made it difficult to push forward the supplies, which are dragged by coolies, requiring eight days' march from Chong-Ju to the Yalu. For seventy miles the river is 500 fathoms wide, and at Yongampho it is ice-laden and barred by islands, whence the Russian sharpshooters can harass the Japanese advance.

The Russians have entrenched themselves heavily near Hai-Cheng, to block the progress of the Japanese in case they succeed in landing at the head of the Lino-Tung Gulf.

RUSSIA'S NAVAL PLAN.

The Russian naval plan for retrieving the reverses at Port Arthur and Chemulpo has been communicated to one of the Embassies through official channels having accesss to the highest naval authorities at St. Petersburg. The plan is explained as follows:—

Russia recognizes that Japan now has preponderating naval strength in the Far East, and will attempt to reverse it by two distinct moves. First, urgent efforts will be made to have a naval concentration at Port Arthur, the Baltic, Red Sea and Vladivostock fleets joining Vice-Admiral Makaroff's command if possible, and thus giving the combined fleets preponderance over Vice-Admiral Togo.

Second, it is foreseen that it will be difficult and probably impossible to effect this concentration, as Admiral Togo may intercept the Baltic fleet before its arrival at Port Arthur. In that event the Baltic fleet, which is comparatively small, will attempt the perilous task of engaging the large Japanese fleet in the hope of disabling some of the Japanese ships, and thus reducing the Japanese effective. According to the Russian calculations, the Baltic fleet may suffer annihilation in such an unequal combat, but it will have served a valuable end if it is able to cripple a sufficient number of Japanese ships to reduce Admiral Togo's naval strength below that of Admiral Makaroff.

The foregoing information is not part of current speculative report, but comes from creditable official sources as being the determined Russian plan.

JAPS ADVANCE TO THE YALU.

Information has been received at Tokio that Japanese transports with stores have entered the estuary of the Yalu, and that troops are landing at various points on the Corean shore. Presumably gunboats are covering the movement. If this be true, the Russian forts erected on the other side of the river must be ineffective.

The Seoul correspondent of the Kokumin telegraphs, on what he says is reliable authority, that the Japanese lines have advanced to the Yalu, thus proving that there is no considerable Russian force on the left bank of the river.

TO SIEGE THE FISHERIES.

The proprietor of the principal fisheries on Saghalien Island has been informed that the Japanese are preparing to make a descent on the island so soon as the ice shall permit. The inhabitants have petitioned that the Vladivostock squadron come to their defence.

THE MELANCHOLY CZAR.

A despatch to the London Daily Mail from Geneva says that the Czar on Wednesday received two officers who are going to the front to represent Switzerland. His Majesty seemed very nervous and melancholy. He discussed the repulse of the Cossacks at Chong-Ju, and said: "One must not be too severe in your criticisms. Remember everything becomes difficult so far from a base."

JAPS CROSS THE YALU.

Tokio despatches to London newspapers assert that Corea is free of Russians, that Japan having crossed the Yalu River. They are said to be bridging the river at Kosan (Chosan). The retreat amazed the Japanese. Some Japanese scouts, it is stated, swarm the Yalu near Kiu-Lien-Cheng, and then followed the river northward. They found a splendid defensive post, which, it is believed, the Russians will utilize to the best advantage.

According to a Shanghai telegram the Japanese advance guard reports that the Russian defences on the Yalu are very much scattered and are still incomplete, making it difficult for any one body to help another in case of a strong attack. It is stated from a doubtful source that the rapidity of the Japanese advance to Wiju surprised the Russians, who were compelled to abandon 24 guns.

The only news concerning the Japanese fleet is a questionable statement by a Japanese sailor at Seoul, to the effect that with Admiral Togo's fleet in the attacks on Port Arthur. He says in effect that the fleet is divided into seven squadrons. Four of them are watching Port Arthur, the fifth is patrolling the Corean coast, and the sixth and seventh are cruising between Vladivostock and Northern Japan.

The threatened rising of the Tonghaks in Northern Corea, has it is stated, induced Mr. Jordan, the British Minister, to ask the Corean Government to send troops to protect the British miners in that part of the country.

RUSSIANS NOT PREPARED.

It is not believed that the Russian troops between Antung and Chiutienchang (about ten miles north of Antung) comprises the main Russian force, and consequently the engagement which is looked for at or near these places probably will not be decisive, but only a forerunner of larger operations.

The Russians are constructing entrenchments at several points on the Yalu and Tumen Rivers. These entrenchments, however, are not yet completed, and if the Japanese succeed in forcing their way past one line of defence it would give them a distinct advantage and make it more difficult for the Russians to concentrate to oppose them. The ice on the Yalu is melting rapidly and the muddy roads make promptness in military operations most difficult.

MUST STAMP ALL ARMS.

Newspapers state that the Russians have ordered that the arms of the Chinese troops at Liao-Yang and in that neighborhood be stamped with the Russian mark. The bearers of unmarked arms will be treated as brigands.

JAPANESE SPIES.

A despatch to the London Times from Chefoo says that the Russians captured two Japanese spies at New-Chwang last Tuesday. They had plans of the new fortifications.

WESTERN WHEAT GROWING

STANDARD EXCELLENCE HAS BEEN LOWERED.

The Comparative Productiveness of Varieties Differs With Localities.

Western Canada wheat has an enviable reputation in foreign countries, says Mr. G. H. Clark, Chief of the Seed Division, Ottawa. It is in demand for American milling centres, as well as those of England and Scotland, because it is rich in gluten of exceedingly good quality. The crop of Western Canada ten years hence will reach, it is estimated, 500 millions of bushels. In view of the rapidly increasing production it is important that its present good reputation be maintained or improved in order that it may continue to grow in favor in foreign countries, where it must find a market.

But the high standard of excellence has already been appreciably lowered through the production of wheat of inferior milling quality. Through carelessness these mixtures are allowed to yearly increase, while in other districts inferior varieties have been grown, that depreciate the value of the total crop.

The advantage of growing only unmixed wheat may be judged from the difference in price between "No. 1 hard" and the next two grades, as this difference is most commonly due to the prevalence of soft, starchy grains in the lower grades. "No. 1 Hard" invariably has a high percentage of translucent grains indicating a high percentage of a good quality of gluten, as is the quality quite as much as the quantity of the gluten that lends value to the superior wheat.

Red Fife is the standard variety and the hardiest wheat grown in Western Canada. It will survive late spring frosts that are sufficiently severe to kill out most other varieties. Its milling qualities are not excelled.

PRESTON WHEAT

is a bearded variety that has grown in favor among farmers in districts where Red Fife has frequently been injured by early frost. It is from two to five days earlier than Red Fife. If the weather be unfavorable at the time when ripening takes place it may ripen even ten days earlier than the latter variety. Some Canadian millers claim to have made careful milling tests of Preston wheat and openly condemn it as much inferior to the Red Fife. Results of tests carried on under the direction of Dr. Saunders, who originated the variety, indicate that it is only slightly inferior to the Red Fife.

The comparative productiveness of varieties differs with localities and conditions of soil and climate. Again there may be quite as much difference between two strains of seed of the same variety as between two distinct sorts, so far as their capacity to give a large yield of grain is concerned. Whatever varieties are selected, they should be grown separately and each kept reasonably pure. On account of careless practices, in the matter of seed selection, mixtures of undesirable sorts have increased in the standard wheat of the West. These impurities consist chiefly of earlier maturing varieties that shell more readily than the Red Fife, thus having a larger proportion of seed from them to come as "volunteer wheat" in the next succeeding crop.

It is of much importance to the country, as well as to individual wheat growers, that these conditions be overcome. It is clear that even farmers who are careless about keeping their seed pure are willing to pay fancy prices for ten, twenty or fifty bushel lots of good, pure seed of wheat, oats and barley. But the supply of high-class seed is limited. Although the demand for it is great, but little effort has been made by farmers to meet the demand. Appeals have been made to the Dominion Department of Agriculture, to establish farms at various points for the purpose of growing pure seed of wheat, and other cereals, for distribution to farmers at the cost of production. That would entail a large expense and would be undertaking work that farmers are quite able to do themselves. The Department of Agriculture is willing to grant such assistance as may be necessary to encourage private enterprise in an endeavor to cope with the situation. In matters of this kind the best results are obtained from organized effort.

GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

With a view further to encourage the production and more general use of seed of the best quality, an announcement was made in the spring of 1903, inviting farmers, who had been giving some special attention to the growing of seed grain, to unite and form an association of seed growers. Rules governing the association and standards of perfection for pedigreed seed will be controlled by an advisory board composed of representative men from the various branch associations. There are now thirty-five seed growers who are members of the Western Canada Association. Their work is supervised and inspected by a superintendent. Records are kept of the amount and pedigree of seed produced by them. According to the rules of the association, each member is required to give a definite guarantee as to the purity, vitality, and freedom from seeds of noxious weeds, with all lots of seed sold by him. The association certificate will show the pedigree of the seed — the number of consecutive years during which hand selection has been followed.

Farmers of Western Canada, who have farms that are free from noxious weeds and otherwise suited to growing good seed of wheat, oats, rye, barley and other grain, are invited to become members of the association and make seed growing a special industry in their farm operations. They may commence by sowing a plot in the coming spring with the best obtainable seed. There will be a ready market for all the seed that can be produced by members, at prices that will pay handsomely for the extra trouble in producing it. There is now an annual demand for 75,000 bushels of seed wheat alone.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Synopsis of Proceedings in the House of Commons.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Mr. Brodeur, Dundas, was informed by Mr. Fisher, on Wednesday, that the quantity of butter and cheese exported from Canadian ports in the years 1893 to 1903 were as follows:—

	Butter, lbs.	Cheese, lbs.
1898	11,253,787	196,703,323
1899	20,139,195	189,827,839
1900	23,259,737	185,984,430
1901	16,335,528	195,926,397
1902	27,855,978	200,946,401
1903	34,128,944	229,099,925

The amount of butter and cheese, respectively, which was exported in cold storage during these years, was as follows:—

	Butter, lbs.	Cheese lbs.
1898	209,172	5,514
1899	429,734	1,406
1900	227,863	
1901	410,893	56,500
1902	525,735	7,127
1903	335,395	

There was also exported in cold air compartments in 1901 23,269 pounds of cheese, in 1902 80,337 pounds of cheese, and in 1903 43,800 pounds of cheese.

DOMINION FISHERIES.

Mr. Prefontaine presented the annual report of the Fisheries Department for 1902. It shows that 77,801 persons were employed in the Canadian fisheries during the year, the craft and gear used being valued at $11,305,959. The lobster fishery alone employed 13,563 persons. There are at present 723 lobster canners, and the plant is valued at $1,287,636. In British Columbia there are 75 salmon canneries, valued at $1,500,000, employing 17,098 persons, and producing 60,103,776 cans of salmon annually. In 1902 there were 64 sealing schooners, and last year 24. Eight Canadian vessels operated near the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic last year took 21,126 fur seals. The total value of the fisheries in 1902 was $21,959,463, as against $25,731,153 the year previous. The British Columbia salmon path alone gave a reduction of two and a half millions.

The value of fish caught in Ontario was $1,265,700, a decrease of $162,372.

The Federal expenditure in fisheries was $527,944, and the revenue $78,635.

During the last fiscal year $11,826,646 worth of fish products was exported to foreign countries.

CHEESE COOLING STATION.

Mr. Blain asked what was the total expenditure in connection with the cheese cooling room at Woodstock, Ont., up to March 1st, 1904. Mr. Fisher requested Mr. Blain to make a motion for a return, as the question involved a great deal of delay.

Questions by Mr. Taylor regarding the same expenditure at Brockville, Ont., Cowansville, Que., and St. Hyacinthe, Que., were similarly disposed of.

APPLES ON SHIPBOARD.

Mr. Smith, Wentworth, was informed by Mr. Fisher that the Government inspector had examined the compartments in which apples were stored on the outer voyage from Canadian ports on a number of vessels. The system adopted on these boats was as follows:—Ontarian, Sirocco fans; Manchester City and Manchester Shipper, Gibbs' ventilators, and electric fans; Pretorian, Kensington, Southwark, Canada, Ontarian and Montcalm, cool air compartments. The rest had the system of cool ventilation.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese, and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

Toronto, April 12.—Wheat—The demand for Ontario grades is slow, and prices are irregular. No. 2 white and red Winter quoted at 92 to 93c low freights. Spring wheat is nominal at 87c east, and goose at 82 to 83c east. Manitoba wheat steady, with No. 1 Northern selling at $1 at Georgian Bay ports; No. 2 Northern at 97c, and No. 3 Northern at 93 to 94c. No. 1 hard is nominal at $1.02. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats—The market is steady, with fair offerings and little demand. No. 2 white quoted at 81c north and west, and 31½c, low freights. No. 1 white quoted at 32c east, and No. 2 at 31½c east.

Barley—The market is quiet, with the demand limited. No. 2 quoted at 44c middle freights. No. 3 extra at 43c, and No. 3 at 41c middle freights.

Peas—The market is unchanged, with No. 2 quoted at 65c west and 66c east.

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices easier. No. 3 American yellow quoted at 54c on track, Toronto; No. 3 mixed at 53c. Canadian corn is nominal at 38½c west for yellow, and 38c for mixed.

Rye—The market is unchanged, with No. 2 quoted at 59 to 60c east and west.

Buckwheat—The market is unchanged, with demand good. No. 2 quoted at 50 to 51c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are unchanged; buyers at $3.60 middle freights in buyers' sacks for export. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade quoted at $4.30 to $4.50 in bbls. Manitoba flours unchanged. No. 1 patents, $5.30; No. 2 patents, $5; and strong bakers', $4.90 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed—Bran is steady at $17 to $17.50, and shorts at $18.50 here. At outside points bran is quoted at $16.50 and shorts at $17.50; Manitoba bran in sacks, $20, and shorts at $21 here.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—There is a quiet trade, with prices steady at $2 to $2.50 per bbl. for the best stock.

Dried apples—The demand is limited, and prices are steady at 3 to 3½c per lb. Evaporated apples, 5½ to 6c per lb.

Beans.—Prime beans are quoted at $1.50 to $1.60, and hand-picked at $1.65 to $1.70.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 26 to 32c, according to quality.

Honey—The market is quiet at 6 to 7c per lb. for bulk, and at $1.25 to $2 for comb.

Hay—No. 1 timothy quoted at $9.50 a ton here.

Straw—The market is dull, without offerings, and prices nominal around $5.50 on track here.

Maple Syrup—There are some offerings of new, which sell at $1 per Imperial gallon.

Potatoes—Choice cars are quoted at 75c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 70c per bag.

Poultry—Chickens, 11 to 13c per lb.; turkeys are quoted at 15 to 16c per lb. for fresh killed; ducks, 13c; and geese at 10 to 12c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Rolls are more plentiful, and prices unchanged. We quote:—Finest, 1-lb. rolls, 17 to 18c; choice large rolls and selected dairy tubs, 15 to 16½c; medium and low grades, 12½ to 14c; creamery prints, 21 to 22c. solids, 18½ to 19½c.

Eggs—The market is weak on heavy receipts, with case lots quoted at 16 to 17c per dozen.

Cheese—Market quiet at steady prices. We quote:—Finest September's, 11c; late Fall and seconds, 9½ to 10½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offerings moderate. Car lots at $6.25 delivered here. Cured meats are in good demand at unchanged prices. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 8½ to 8¾c per lb. in case lots. Mess pork, $16.50 to $17; do., short cut, $18.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12½c; do, heavy, 12c; rolls, 10c; shoulders, 9½c; backs, 13½ to 14c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13½c.

Lard—The demand is fair, with prices unchanged. We quote:—Tierces, 8¼c; tubs, 8½c; pails, 8¾c; compound, 7½ to 8¼c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, April 12.— There was some demand for oats for milling purposes, and a sale of 50,000 bushels of No. 2 white was reported at 32c per bush. high freights; there were also some enquiry for peas, 72c per bush, was bid afloat for a round lot, and sales of car lots were made at a figure equal to the above. The spot market for oats was unchanged; No. 3 white being quoted at 38½c per bush, ex store. Flour—Market steady; business reported rather quiet; we quote Manitoba Spring wheat patents, $5.40; Manitoba strong bakers', $5.10; Winter wheat patents, $5.10 to $5.25; straight rollers, $4.85 to $5; straight rollers, in bags, $2.30 to $2.35. Rolled oats—Sales in small lots were made at $2.32½ to $2.35 per bag; a fair trade is passing in cornmeal at $1.40 to $1.45 per bag. Feed—We quote Manitoba bran, in bags, $20; shorts, $21 per ton; Ontario bran, in bulk, $19.50 to $20; shorts, $20.50 to $21; and moullie, $24 to $28 per ton as to quality. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $18 to $19; light short cut, $16 to $17.50; American short cut clear, $17 to $17.50. American fat backs $19.50; compound lard, 7¾ to 8c; Canadian lard, 8¼ to 9c; kettle rendered, 9¾ to 9½; hams, 11 to 13c. Bacon 13½ to 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7 to $7.50; country dressed hogs, $7; live hogs, $5.50. Eggs—New laid, 18c. Butter—Winter creamery, 19½ to 20c; new made, 20½ to 21c; full grass Fall makes, 18½ to 21½c; Western dairy, 15 to 15½c; rolls, 16 to 17c; creamery, 18 to 18½c. Cheese—Ontario, 9¾ to 10¼c; Townships, 9½ to 10c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Milwaukee, April 12.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1; No. 2 Northern, 96 to 98c; old July, 87¾c bid. Rye—No. 1, 72 to 73c. Barley—No. 2, 62 to 63c; sample, 40 to 59c. Corn—No. 3, 50 to 51c; July, 52¼c.

Buffalo, April 12.—Flour—Quiet. Wheat—Spring dull; No. 1 Northern Duluth, $1.09. Corn—Stronger; No. 2 yellow, 57¼c; No. 2 corn, 54 to 54½c. Oats—Dull; No. 2 mixed, 42½c; No. 2 white, 46½c. Barley—Nothing doing. Rye—No. 1 quoted at 54c.

Minneapolis, April 12.—Wheat—May, 95½c; July, 95c; September 81¾c; on track, No. 1 hard, 96¾c; No. 1 Northern, 95¾c; No. 2 Northern 93¾c. Flour—First patents, $5.05 to $5.15; second patents, $4.95 to $5.05; first clears, $3.60 to $3.65; second clears, $2.50 to $2.60.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto, April 12.—Business was active in butchers' cattle to-day, and prices were firmly maintained.

A limited number of exporters were sold. The quality of these was good, but the market was quiet and prices were weak. The enquiry was light.

Stockers and feeders kept in brisk demand, but the small receipts prevented buyers securing sufficient supplies. Stock calves and short keep feeders are particularly wanted.

Sheep were in fair demand, while lambs sold freely at firm prices for grain-fed stock. The run made buying active, prices were unchanged.

Drovers shipping cattle from up-country stations, said that a great delay took place in the forwarding of their cattle. Loads that were shipped on Tuesday and Wednesday morning did not reach the market till this afternoon.

Exporters' cattle were quoted at $4.25 to $4.80 per cwt.

An active tone dominated the market for butchers' cattle to-day, and values held strong. We quote:—Picked lots equal in quality to exporters', $4.45 to $4.60; good loads, $4.20 to $4.35; fair to good, $3.80 to $4.10; common to fair, $3 to $3.60; rough cows, $2.50 to $3.20 per cwt.

Butchers' and exporters' bulls were unchanged. We quote:—$3.40 to $3.75 for export bulls, $3 to $3.40 for feeders, and $2.50 up for lights.

Trade in feeders was light on limited deliveries. A number of stock calves were sold. Quotations follow:—Feeders, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs., $3.90 to $4.45; feeders, 800 to 1,000 lbs., $3.50 to $3.75; stockers, 600 to 800 lbs., $3 to $3.75; stock calves, 400 to 600 lbs., $3.50 to $3.65 per cwt.

Trade in sheep continued active. We quote:—Heavy ewes, $3.50 to $4; light sheep, $3.75 to $4.25; bucks, $3.25 to $3.75; grain-fed lambs, $5.50 to $6.50; barn-yard lambs, $4.50 to $5.25 per cwt.; Spring lambs, $2.50 to $6.50 each.

Calves sold at 4 to 6c per lb. or $2 to $10 each.

Milch cows were steady at $30 to $55 each.

The prices of hogs were unchanged. We quote:—Selects, 160 to 200 lbs. of prime bacon quality, off cars, Toronto, $4.75; fats, $4.50; sows, $3.50 to $3.75; stags, $2 to $2.50 per cwt.

READY FOR FEDERATION

French View of the Attitude of Newfoundland.

A Paris despatch says:—It is understood in official circles, in spite of statements to the contrary, that there is foundation for the reports that Newfoundland will take steps to enter the Dominion of Canada as the result of the Anglo-French settlement of the shore and fisheries questions, which heretofore had interfered with Newfoundland's complete sovereignty.

The Temps says that Great Britain's gain in Newfoundland is America's loss, declares the United States has been covetous of the French fisheries, and says France had difficulty in making it understood that the Islands of Saint Pierre and Miquelon were not for sale.

TREACHOROUS THIBETANS.

Fired at British Officers During a Parley.

A despatch to The London Times from Kalatzo, Thibet, dated Thursday, reports that 200 Thibetans at the village of Samonda, in treacherously firing a volley at a party of British officers whom they invited to parley with them aimed badly: No one was injured, but the action is supposed to indicate the tactics which the Thibetans intend to employ at Guru. The correspondent adds that reinforcements are arriving at Gyangtse to oppose the British advance.

RUSSIA RETRENCHING.

Expenditure Reduced on Account of the War.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says: The official Messenger gives details of the retrenchment in certain branches of State expenditure, due to the war. The free balance in the treasury will be devoted to war purposes. The retrenchment is made especially in the civil estimates, introduced in the budget for 1904.

POLISH INSURRECTION.

Russian Officials Reported to be Nervous.

A despatch from Vienna says: The Russian officials at Warsaw are nervous over the possibility of a Polish insurrection. Rumors are current that the rising is to begin with the murder of a Russian official.

REDUCING THE FLEET.

North America Vessels Returning to England.

A Halifax despatch says: Official information that as the result of the settlement the British fleet in North American waters will be reduced. The large fast cruiser Ariadne, flying the flag of Admiral Sir A. L. Douglas, will be sent to join the Mediterranean squadron, of which Admiral Douglas will take command, and the Ariadne will be replaced by a small cruiser. At present Halifax is the headquarters of the [illegible]-in-Chief of the North [illegible] and West Indies station, and has a comparatively large fleet of [illegible] ships here. The Newfoundland fleet get supplies here. The ships at present on the station are flag ship Ariadne, first-class cruiser Charybdis, second-class cruiser Tribune, Retribution, Calypso; [illegible] twin screw sloop; Alert, screw sloop; Columbine, steel screw steamer; [illegible] defatigable, second-class cruiser; Pallas, third-class cruiser. Four of the above ships were employed during the Newfoundland treaty [illegible] the fishing season.

PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS.

Usumbara, in German East Africa, is Devastated.

A Berlin despatch says: Swarms of locusts have devastated the valleys of Usumbara, in German East Africa. They were first noticed coming from Wembo, [illegible] 22. It is semi-officially stated that a most terrible snowstorm would give an idea of the numbers of locusts. The trees on which they settled have broke down, and [illegible] and banana trees have been stripped. Scarcely a green blade has been left in the forests [illegible] except in the case of [illegible], which the locusts tried [illegible].

TREATY WITH THIBET.

Colonel Younghusband Expects One Soon.

A London despatch says: [illegible] Secretary Brodrick on Wednesday received a despatch, from [illegible] husband, the special [illegible] with the British expedition [illegible] in which the colonel says [illegible] to reach Gyangtse, [illegible] from Lhassa, the capital [illegible] within a week, and the [illegible] Chinese representatives and [illegible] Thibetan officials, and [illegible] that by which further [illegible] will be prevented.

VALUABLE RELICS STOLEN

Raid on Geological Survey Museum at Ottawa.

An Ottawa despatch says: A valuable collection of Indian [illegible] relics has been stolen from the [illegible] logical Survey Museum. [illegible] a kind that cannot be easily replaced. The thieves made use of [illegible] in order to get access to the [illegible] sides specimens of the [illegible] the Indians, a rare collection [illegible] was raided.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Railway Tax Will be Increased—Bachelors Will Pay [illegible]

Premier Ross' bill to [illegible] taxation on railways provides that railways shall pay as follows: [illegible] a mile for single track; $16 for each additional track; these rates to apply in the organized districts; a mile for single track; $8 additional for double tracks; $4 to apply in unorganized districts; in case of short sections of less than 100 miles, $15 per mile charged, with $5 extra for double tracks. In view of the fact that only $5 per mile is obtained at present this will add considerably to the burdens of the poor, do [illegible] railways. It is estimated that between $150,000 and $200,000 will be derived from this source.

BACHELORS MUST PAY.

It was after considerable discussion been spent in the technical [illegible] Attorney-General Gibson's amendment Act that the clause providing for exemption of incomes at $1,000 be reached. Here a halt was called to permit George P. Graham, who [illegible] while householders should be exempted up to $1,000, he thought that unmarried men should be in a different class.

"I think non-householders should receive no exemption whatever," declaimed A. G. McKay, after which even with a discriminating [illegible] $200 or $300 the house [illegible] ported his family paid more than [illegible] son of his house tax than does the householder.

"I have lived in a village on a salary and I have lived in a city on a salary," testified Wm. Gibson, who thought a ratio of $1,000 for cities and $700 for towns would be all right.

NO EXEMPTION NOW.

Hugh Clark recalled that he had been no complaint about the tariff of $700, and he suggested a return to that.

"I would like to ask the gentleman," said A. G. McKay, "if he is willing to tax laboring men with large families, who earn only $900 a year and pay on $700 property as well, while bank clerks and other young fellows pay nothing?"

"If there is any way of taxing the unmarried man I am willing to join," returned the member for Bruce.

Mr. Clark suggested an amendment placing the exemption at $700 instead of $500 for non-householders.

"I would wipe out the $500 altogether," opined Mr. McKay.

Mr. Gibson framed an amendment providing that in cities of 50,000 the exemption should be $1,000, and in other towns and cities it should be $700, these exemptions to apply to householders.

FOR THE LEISURE OF LIFE

STUDY OF THE CLASSICS APPROVED IN GERMANY.

Principal Peterson of McGill Speaks of the Methods of That Country.

An eloquent plea for a continuous and well-thought-out scheme of national education was made by Principal Peterson, of McGill, before the Ontario Educational Society at Toronto on Wednesday night. A general principle that should be applied throughout the training of the pupil to think, was the principle of teaching the [illegible] told us to-day to avoid the superficiality [illegible] curriculum, of meeting and [illegible] educational [illegible] course of the said that it was [illegible] It had been too many subjects [illegible] cut to make or to scatter [illegible] the curriculum, range of loosely-[illegible] courses over a [illegible] subjects.

LEARNING FOR LEISURE.

It was Germany, said, that had [illegible] Principal Peterson [illegible] to be satished with its edu- [illegible] system and it was Germany [illegible] the classics were most appre- [illegible] The idea that education was for [illegible] purposes only was repudiated [illegible] far back as Plato. The mark- [illegible] a livelihood was not everything [illegible] the leisure of life had also to be [illegible] provided for.

One of the reasons [illegible] for so much slipshod English was [illegible] country was because of the neglect [illegible] Latin. Something was needed [illegible] to simplify the study of Latin. [illegible] He considered the text-books here [illegible] to elaborate. He would advocate the study of Latin [illegible] whole a rapid was struggling [illegible] groundwork of Latin.

SUPERANNUATION BILL DIES.

The proposed [illegible] for teachers died [illegible] Mr. J. H. Putman, [illegible] committee, reported [illegible] years of endeavor [illegible] in the past month [illegible] from Hon. Mr. [illegible] no legislation [illegible] this session that [illegible] contribution [illegible] The committee [illegible] charged from its [illegible]

D. Young delivered [illegible] address to the [illegible] declared against [illegible] ializing.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

Upon the question [illegible] Mr. Young expressed [illegible] could not be [illegible] decrease in the [illegible] sure that [illegible] men and women [illegible] the profession [illegible] jostled aside by [illegible] and mere lads.

FRUIT TREES AFFECTED.

Winter Has Done Damage From Quebec to Windsor, Ontario.

A despatch from Mr. W. T. Macoun, of the Experimental [illegible] on Thursday morning [illegible] sults of the fruit [illegible] the past year. [illegible] just closing was [illegible] known for many [illegible] had affected [illegible] in the Province of [illegible] ington, in Western [illegible]

The results of [illegible] with grapes at the Central [illegible] years past showed [illegible] varieties would grow [illegible] the Ottawa Valley.

STATE OF SIEGE IN POLAND.

Russian Government Will Issue Proclamation.

A despatch from [illegible] The Czar has [illegible] Radziwill from Warsaw [illegible] induce the Polish [illegible] use their influence [illegible] Russian sentiment [illegible] Poles. It is reported [illegible] sian Government has [illegible] claim a state of [illegible]

POPULATION OF THE U. S.

Census Bureau Estimates Shows Large Increase.

A despatch from Washington [illegible]—The Census Bureau [illegible] issued a bulletin, [illegible] timated population [illegible] States for 1903, [illegible] and the insular possessions [illegible] United States, as follows: [illegible] is an increase of 2,700,000 [illegible] census of 1900.

The estimates show [illegible] the chief cities as follows: [illegible] York, 3,716,139; Chicago, 1,823,779; Philadelphia, 1,267,73[illegible] has almost reached [illegible] mark; Baltimore, [illegible] land, 411,950; Cincinnati, [illegible] San Francisco, [illegible] 345,043; Detroit, [illegible] New Orleans have [illegible] 300,000 mark, and [illegible] close to that figure.

Considered by States, [illegible] York leads in population, with [illegible] seven and a half million.

SPECIALISTS VISIT EMPEROR.

Examination Made of His Throat or Throat.

A despatch from Berlin [illegible] The Post says that [illegible] made a thorough examination [illegible] Kaiser's throat on [illegible] the Hohenzollern at Naples [illegible] 31st of March, and left on [illegible] many on the first of the [illegible] ing with them specimens [illegible] patient's saliva. The [illegible] ance is attached to the [illegible] the result of which has [illegible] disclosed.

MOST SENSITIVE SPOT.

It is a mistake to suppose that the tip of the tongue is the most sensitive part of the body. The [illegible] ed in polishing billiard balls [illegible] substances that require a [illegible] degree of smoothness, [illegible] use the cheekbone as a means of [illegible] ing any roughness.

IN THE GLA

Like the Birds, [illegible] Gods Singi

(Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Four, by Wm. Batty, of Toronto, at the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.)

A despatch from Los Angeles, Cal., says: Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage preached from the following text: Solomon's Song ii., 12, "The time of the singing of the birds is come." "Do you know what makes the snow-banks disappear in the spring-time?" asked a man of poetic temperament. "Why, yes," I answered. "It is due to the heat of the sun." "It is due to the fact that, being so much stronger now than it is in January, it is due to the fact that, contact the earth's being warmed at the sun's [illegible] even as one side of a piece of [illegible] is toasted by being exposed to [illegible] kitchen stove's heat while the other side of that piece of bread remains unscorched." "Oh, no," answered my poetic friend. "The snow disappears not on account of the sun's rays, but because the flames flowing among the feathers of the red-breasted robin have melted them." Have you noticed, as a rule, the snowbirds never entirely disappear until the harbingers of the summer birds have stamped them out of existence?

LIKE THE SONG BIRD.

First, like the song bird, God gives us sing because he has given us musical throats with which to sing. As the brown thrush or the nightingale is able to [illegible] voice in treble or fantasia or [illegible] or cantata or serenade, God, [illegible] comical construction of the throat has made it possible for us to [illegible] forth musical notes in his [illegible] has not disconnected our [illegible] from the great bellows of the lungs. He has not had us born with a [illegible] tongue, or with deaf ears. But God has placed in the larynx of [illegible] singing bird's throat a [illegible] brace, so he has stretched out [illegible] end of almost every human [illegible] windpipe a fibrous, elastic [illegible] which will vibrate as we [illegible] sing or speak. We ought, [illegible] all, to be grateful that God [illegible] us so anatomically [illegible] throat with which we can sing [illegible] praises. Thank God to-day [illegible] power of the speaking throat; [illegible] are all ready to acknowledge [illegible] indebtedness to him for the [illegible] of the eye. If you are [illegible] read that wonderful story we [illegible] the most famous of living [illegible] authors. The book opens with a description of a noted war artist [illegible] is growing blind. From [illegible] works at his last canvas, the [illegible] dark cloud of total obscurity [illegible] upon him. His friends leave him [illegible] by one for the Egyptian [illegible] sits in his room alone, [illegible] ply, until at last, crazed by [illegible] he starts for the front and is [illegible] mercifully shot by an Arab [illegible] Sickett. Oh, yes, with every [illegible] sorrow, with every architectural [illegible] upon window pane, with [illegible] masterpiece of autumn [illegible] every walk over [illegible] through city street, we are [illegible] to say: "Thank God for the [illegible] Thank God for the window [illegible] sort!"

POWER OF THE HUMAN [illegible]

Not only for visual, but [illegible] tory organs are we also [illegible] the sounding board of one's [illegible] drums is, in any way [illegible] guard the other ear more [illegible] than we do our jewel boxes, [illegible] securities, which we place [illegible] its vaults. We never let our [illegible] become overheated by stove [illegible] ter. We never in a railroad [illegible] the draft blow upon it that [illegible] ed windows. At the least [illegible] turbance then away we rush [illegible] specialist to have it treated [illegible] for by the best of surgeons, we all appreciate the [illegible] the ear. But how many of [illegible] preciate the blessings of the [illegible] How many of us have ever [illegible] thanked God that we can [illegible] praises as the birds can [illegible] tree branch into a choir [illegible] temple of the woods? How [illegible] us are ready to thank God [illegible] wonderful instrument of [illegible] which can laugh out our [illegible] out our sorrows and make [illegible] the thoughts that are [illegible] awhile under the domes of [illegible] heads and the loves that [illegible] and cooing in the silent [illegible] our hearts?

GOD BIDS US SING.

Like the song birds, God [illegible] us sing because he has given [illegible] open heaven in which to [illegible] one thing to have a voice with [illegible] to sing, but it is just as [illegible] have a suitable place in which [illegible] can sing. It is one thing [illegible] musical throat like the [illegible] in which all the siren spirits [illegible] hills and valleys can find [illegible] expression, but it is another [illegible] have the beautiful voice of [illegible] tipped canary hushed into [illegible] silence by being domiciled [illegible] room or in a dungeon. If [illegible] bird were compelled [illegible] ground mole's tunnel, or to [illegible] the moths with their mouths [illegible] up with woolen garments, [illegible] be as dumb as they.

Thank God, then, for your [illegible] throat and for your opportunity [illegible] using it. David Glasgow Farragut, [illegible] one of the most resplendent [illegible] tors in naval history, was born [illegible] 1801. With the exception of [illegible] engagement in which he participated [illegible] as a mere boy of thirteen, [illegible] never smelled gunpowder in battle until he was sixty-one [illegible] of age. For nearly fifty [illegible] he walked the ship's deck in [illegible] peace. Had he been retired [illegible] years of age from the service, [illegible] can history would have had [illegible]