LIFE OF THE CZAR'S WIFE

STRIKING PEN PICTURE OF THE CZARINA.

Gladly Leaves Splendid Receptions to Busy Herself in Wifely Duties.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Courier des Etats-Unis brings out a striking pen picture of the Czarina at home and at court, with details which cannot fail to interest women generally. Here it is said, somewhere reduced in plain English, says an exchange:

The Czar finds the Empress in the apartments of the children, to whom she speaks sometimes in French, sometimes in German, rarely Russian. She likes the French language and wants the little Grand Duchesses, Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia to cultivate it. Nicholas II., who speaks French perfectly, rarely drops into German. But he and the Czarina never fail to read together the literary novelties that appear in Berlin and Paris.

The Empress detests formal receptions, although she resigns herself to them when circumstances demand self-sacrifice. But she likes little private parties where she can dispense luxury and ceremonies. Her soirees at times, to which a limited number of persons are invited, have a special attraction for her because they permit her to dispense with such extravagant toilet. She appears at them generally with a dark velvet dress enhanced with a single gem. Her hair, which curls naturally, has no diadem and no comb sparkling with diamonds; she simply fixes a rose in it. She wears no bracelets, and on her fingers there are never more than two rings, without counting

THE WEDDING RINGS.

The simplicity of the Empress is paid to the ladies of honor, who are obliged to follow her example. Russian society loves splendors because there are many great fortunes in St. Petersburg, and ostentatious luxury has no chance to display itself in court at the great official receptions, when the Czarina appears in a splendid toilet, the magnificence of which produces clamors of admiration. These receptions are usually in the Nicholas hall of the Winter palace, which makes an incomparable frame for the display of refinement and opulence.

This hall, more spacious than all the palaces of Europe, is white and bordered by tall mirrors which reflect a thousand electric lights. All fairy scenes fade away before these official receptions, at which as many as three thousand guests are present. The Empress appears with her hundred ladies of honor, and recalls one of the Orient. She smiles graciously upon all, who bow to her as she passes on. Her light velvet robe sparkles with the fire of innumerable diamonds. Over her head-dress, a marvel of art, a beautiful white bird spreads outstretched wings, with feathers bespangled with brilliants and eyes of rubies and a beak of coral.

The respect of such moments is the veneration point. Beauty and imperial majesty are triumphant. Precisely in that moment the admiration the Empress of Russia inspires herself to the admiration of the elite of her court, like a goddess before whom the people

KNEEL AND TREMBLE.

But what an unsuspected contrast when the dazzling reception is over, when these attributes of magnificence are replaced in their casket, when the Czarina reaches her apartments where solitude or maternal anxiety calls her, she busies herself in seeking the dishes which are best for the health of her children.

It may be said without contradiction that the Czarina is the idol of all Russian mothers, and that all Russia blesses her name. To be convinced of this it is only necessary to read the following significant lines in a Russian Nihilist book which has just appeared in Germany, and which indulges in the passionate revolutionary invectives:

"What a lesson this is in the simplicity and the modesty of the Empress of Russia! The Czarina has proved once more that true happiness is not to be found in pomp and splendors, but in the consciousness of duty performed. For a woman there is no higher or more sacred mission than the fulfillment of a mother's duties with religious care. Of this the Czarina is the living proof."

SOLDIERS' POST-CARDS.

The Japanese Government have found a novel and excellent use for post cards. Realizing that, for various reasons, the soldier on campaign may not have leisure or opportunity to write home to his family, the military authorities have supplied to each army a sufficient number of post-cards, ready printed, to which the soldier has only to affix his name, or, more exactly, his seal, each Japanese soldier carrying one with him as part of his outfit. On all the cards the same message is printed: "This is to let you know that I am alive and well. I cannot give you my address, not knowing where I shall be to-morrow, but your letters will reach me some time or other if you reply to the place the name of which is printed in the post-mark. Greetings to my family and friends."

OAK SPLITS A ROCK.

A wonderful freak of Nature is an oak tree in the Far West, which has grown up from a sapling into a wide-spreading, handsome tree, through a rock of flint stone, splitting the massive rock by the tremendous pressure of its vigorous growth. No one living knows how long Nature has been assisting this oak in its work of stone-crushing. The oldest people in the neighborhood recall the tree in their childhood, and experts in forestry say that it must be fully 200 years old.

TRAIN AND TROLLEY MET

Horrible Catastrophe at Queen Street East Railroad Crossing in Toronto.

A despatch from Toronto says:—With a crash like thunder a heavy Mogul engine attached to No. 96 cattle special on the G.T.R. dashed into an east-bound King street car at the Grass Street crossing about half past six on Thursday night. Three of the twenty-five passengers died from the injuries they received, and twelve are more or less seriously injured.

The crash was as sudden as it was terrible in its effects. The great engine, one of the heaviest in Ontario, with its glaring headlight, had left the Union Station, and was proceeding on its way to Montreal. When it neared the crossing the gateman received his usual signal, and lowered the gates. He declares they were down about two minutes before the train reached them. At the same time that the gates were lowered two automatic blocks, or clamps, situated about twenty-five feet from the gates, jut into the street railway tracks, so that the cars cannot proceed any further when the gates are down.

Although these protections to the public safety were all in place, along came the street car, as if the road were clear. It was going at a good rate of speed, jumped the blocks on the track, crashed into the gate, which snapped like a pipe-stem, and while about half-way across the railway track was struck fairly in the middle by the approaching engine.

CRASH WAS TERRIFIC.

The crash was terrific. The air was filled with pieces of glass and wood; passengers were hurled in almost every direction, but none of them fell beneath the wheels of the train. The vestibule, the motor and a section of the car were carried, by actual measurement, 360 feet by the engine's cow-catcher. The body of the car was smashed to kindling wood, while pieces of the trucks were strewn in every direction. The roof was lifted entirely off and carried a distance of about 25 feet. It took the crew of a wrecking train several hours to clear the track of all the debris.

PASSENGERS PICKED UP.

Most of the passengers were picked up among the wreckage at the north-east corner of Queen Street and the crossing. At this point about half a dozen feet of the car had been thrown. The moment the engine struck the car the coupling between it and the trailer broke, and the score of passengers on the latter were fortunately not seriously injured. The trailer, however, was dragged a few feet off the tracks before it became detached from the motor and those in it were rather badly shaken up and very much frightened.

MANY MIRACULOUS ESCAPES.

The most astonishing thing about the whole sad affair is that everybody was not killed outright. Those who saw the accident regard that part of it as a miracle. They didn't expect to see anybody carried out of the wreck alive. The engine simply plowed into the motor and demolished it as if it had been a toy. The impact, however, shook the whole train, and a brakesman who was forthrown inside one of the cars, was thrown to the ground. The engineer, acted with great promptitude, and succeeded in bringing his train to a stop within a comparatively short distance, considering the speed that it was a very heavy freight.

MOTORMAN MUST EXPLAIN.

Motorman Armstrong is the only man who can give the cause of the accident. From what could be learned the brakes were down in ample time for him to bring his car to a stop. Several eyewitnesses to the accident testify to this. Armstrong himself was seen by a number of people after the occurrence, but he talked incoherently, and nothing could be made of what he said. Later he was taken to the hospital, but the doctors there refused to allow anyone to see him. The only possible explanation as to why the car did not come to a stop is that the brakes did not work properly. The officials of the Railway officials stated that in Armstrong's state of mind they did not wish to interrogate him. It was clear, from what he could be made to say, that the man when he saw that a collision was inevitable jumped from the car. If he had not jumped it would be reasonable to suppose that his body would have been found 500 feet further along the track, where the vestibule and motor were picked up.

THE DEAD.

William J. McKay, conductor of motor car, aged 29, residence 65 Sackville Street, married, fracture at the base of the skull, died at the hospital at 8.05.

Russell J. Stephens, mechanic, aged 20, residence 128½ Morse Street, single, fracture at the base of the skull and severe scalp wounds, died at the hospital at 8.45.

Mrs. Minnie Mabaffy, 25 Wardell Street, skull fractured and scalp wounds, died at the hospital at 9.30.

THE INJURED.

Joseph Johnston, machinist, 64 Robinson Street, bruises and lacerations on the face, bruises on the right hip.

Willis Armstrong, motorman of the car, 22 years of age, 115 Sackville Street, bruised about the head and back.

Wilfrid Shaffer, 613 King Street, east, right knee sprained, rib broken severe scalp wound, abrasions about the face.

Emily Moss, 24 Kew Beach, bruises about the chest and forehead.

Bella Campbell, 5 Wilcox Street, face and forehead bruised, head lacerated.

Agnes McDonald, 25 Wardell Street, ankle sprained, back bruised.

Thomas Haskin, 56 Caroline St., neck and head cut by flying glass.

Andrew Robertson, 24 Mercer Street, forehead cut.

Mrs. Andrew Robertson, same address, head cut.

Thomas Robertson, one year old, son of the former, left leg crushed so badly that amputation was necessary above the knee.

Mrs. Wm. Coon, 65 De Grassi Street, knee cap broken, head cut.

John Hymas, 1941 Queen Street east, knee cut and limbs bruised.

DESTROYING WEED SEEDS.

Care at Threshing Time Will Lessen Future Labor.

There are many ways in which weed seeds may be destroyed on the farm, says M. G. H. Clark, Chief of the Seed Division, Ottawa. Quantities of weed seeds get out into the farmyard at threshing time. There is a general tendency just at that time to do things with a rush. The threshing machine is apt to be overcrowded and many of the weed seeds, as well as a considerable quantity of grain, carried out with the straw. These are likely to germinate and grow with the next crop. A little care in the barn at the time of threshing and cleaning of grain, especially seed grain, will do much to lessen future labor with hoe and cultivator. Cleanings from grain containing weed seeds should be boiled or very finely ground. The seeds of many of the worst weeds are so small that it is not safe to trust to grinding to kill them; they should be boiled. It is not wise either, to throw worthless screenings in roadways. Many of them will be carried away in mud on the hoofs of horses and the wheels of vehicles and so distributed widely. The seeds of most weeds of the mustard family have such a pungent flavor as to render them unpalatable to stock. The admixture with meal of even a small quantity of worm-seed mustard would render it useless for feeding purposes.

The enactment of laws to compel the cutting of weeds before they have ripened seed should be dealt with by the provincial and municipal authorities, because the majority of weeds are necessarily local in character, on account of the diversity of climate, soil, and methods of farming. It may be said that further laws of this sort would not be enforced any better than those we now have. But it is the duty of all farmers to make sure that they are not responsible for the spread of weeds from their farms to others. Good farmers should endeavor to create a strong public sentiment against shiftlessness on the part of those who are disposed to allow their fields to become overrun with weeds, so that the danger which now exists, and the greater danger which is in prospect, may be not in such a way that noxious weeds will not become too great a burden upon those who make their living primarily from the cultivation of the soil.

A GUNNER'S SUICIDE.

Arrested, Broke Away and Jumped Into the Sea.

A despatch from Halifax, N.S., says:—A sensational suicide occurred at midnight, on Thursday, when a young gunner of the Royal Artillery, arrested for fighting on the street, broke from his captors, and plunged into the icy water of the harbor, and was drowned. He had been arrested by the military police and was taken to the main guard room at the Queen's Wharf. When the sergeant on duty was removing the prisoner's belt he broke away dashed down the wharf, and with a wild shriek jumped into the water. Every effort was made to rescue the man, but he disappeared immediately. His name is unknown. He was about twenty-three years old. The authorities will hold an investigation.

THE TIDY ANT.

A naturalist has been making observations on the toilets of certain ants, and has discovered each insect goes through most elaborate ablutions. They are not only performed by herself, but by another, who acts for the time as lady's maid. The assistant starts by washing the face of her companion, and then goes over the whole body. The attitude of the ant that is being washed is one of intense satisfaction. She lies down with all her limbs stretched loosely out; she rolls over on her side, even her back, a perfect picture of ease. The pleasure the little insect evinces in being thus combed and sponged is really enjoyable to the observer.

The Anglo-French treaty re Newfoundland was ratified in the French Chambers of Deputies by an overwhelming majority.

A 13-year old Polish boy has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for lese majeste. While at school in Lissa he condemned the neutrality of Germany and made derogatory remarks about the Kaiser.

Owing to the lack of officers and enlisted men in the United States navy to meet the actual needs of the service the Navy Department has ordered at least three warships out of commission.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

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

Toronto, Nov. 22.—Wheat—Trade in Ontario grades is quiet, with the feeling slightly easier. No. 2 white and red Winter quoted at $1.04 outside. No. 2 goose at 89 to 90c east; and No. 2 Spring at 98c east. Manitoba wheat is steady; No. 1 Northern $1.03½; No. 2 Northern, 98½c, and No. 3 Northern at 94c, Georgian Bay ports. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats—No. 2 white is quoted at 31½ to 32c low freights, and at 31½c north and west; No. 1 white is steady at 32½c east.

Barley—No. 2 quoted at 46 to 47c, middle freights. No. 3 extra, 44c, and No. 3 at 42c middle freights.

Peas—The market is firm, with prices ruling at 67 to 68c outside.

Corn—No. 3 American yellow quoted at 66½c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 65c. Canadian corn is nominal at 56 to 58c west.

Rye—Offerings are small, and prices firm at 76 to 77c outside.

Buckwheat—The market is nominal at 53 to 54c at outside points.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are quoted at $4.40 to $4.45 in buyers' sacks east or west. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade, in bbls., $4.75 to $5. Manitoba unchanged. No. 1 patents, $5.70; No. 2 patents, $5.40, and strong bakers', $5.30 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed—At outside points bran is quoted at $14.50 to $15, and shorts at $17.50 to $18. Manitoba bran in sacks $19, and shorts at $21.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Beans—Trade is fair and prices firm. Prime beans are quoted at $1.35 to $1.40, and hand-picked at $1.45 to $1.50.

Cranberries—The market is steady at $8 per barrel.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 30 to 35c, according to quality.

Honey—The market is quiet, at 7½ to 8c per lb. Comb honey, $1.25 to $2 per dozen.

Hay—Car lots are quoted at $8 to $8.50 on track, Toronto, the latter for No. 1 timothy.

Straw—Car lots are quoted at $6 on track, Toronto.

Potatoes—The market is quiet and steady, with car lots of Ontario stock at 60 to 65c per bag on track, and Eastern at 70c on track. Small lots, 75 to 90c per bag.

Poultry—Spring chickens, 9c per lb.; yearlings, 6 to 7c per lb.; ducks, 9c per lb, geese, 9c per lb.; turkeys, 13 to 14c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 17 to 18c; ordinary to choice large rolls, 15 to 17c; low to medium grades, 13 to 14c; creamery prints, 22 to 23c; solids, 20 to 21c.

Eggs—Case lots of new laid are selling at 21 to 22c per dozen, and pickled at 19 to 20c.

Cheese—The market is firm, with large cheese quoted at 10 to 10¼c, and twins at 10½ to 10¾c per lb.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Car lots are quoted at $6.40 to $6.50. Cured meats are in good demand at unchanged prices. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 8½ to 8¾c per lb., in case lots; mess pork, $14.75 to $15; do, short cut, $18.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12½ to 13c; do heavy, 12c; rolls, 9½ to 18c; shoulders, 9 to 9½c; backs, 14½ to 15c; breakfast bacon, 13c.

Lard—The demand is fair, with prices unchanged. We quote:—Tierces, 8c; tubs, 8¼c; pails, 8½c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Nov. 22.—Grain—Oats, 40 to 40½c for No. 2 in store here; No. 3, 39 to 39½c; American yellow, No. 2, 62½c; No. 3, 61c; white, No. 2, 59½ to 60½c; buckwheat 59 to 59½c. Flour—Manitoba patents, $5.80 and strong bakers', $5.50; high Ontario blended patents, $5.75 to $5.85, in wood; choice 90 per cent. per barrel less in shippers' new bags; straight rollers, $2.45 to $2.55, and 25 to 30c extra in wood. Rolled Oats—$2.32½ per bag, $1.90 in barrels. Millfeed.—Ontario bran, in bulk, $17 to $18; shorts, $19 to $20; Manitoba bran, in bags, $18; shorts $21. Beans—Choice primes, $1.40 to $1.45 per bushel; $1.35 to $1.37½ in car lots. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork $16.50 to $17.50; light short cut, $16.50 to $17; American clear fat backs, $20; compound lard, 6½ to 7c; Canadian lard, 9½ to 7½c; kettle rendered, 8½ to 9½c, according to quality; hams, 12 to 13c; bacon, 12 to 13c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7.50; heavy fat hogs $4.25; mixed lots, $4.80 to $4.90; select, $5 to $5.25 off cars. Cheese—Ontario Fall white, 10 to 10½c; colored, 10½ to 10¾c, Quebec, 9½ to 9¾c. Butter—Finest grades, 19½ to 20½c; ordinary finest, 19 to 19½c; medium grades, 18 to 19c, and Western dairy, 15 to 15½c. Eggs—Select new laid, 23 to 24c; straight gathered, candled, 20 to 21c; No. 2, 15 to 15½c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Nov. 22.—Flour firm. Wheat—Spring, scarce; No. 1 Northern, c.i.f., $1.20½; Winter dull; No. 2 hard, Winter, $1.04. Corn—Nominal. Oats.—Firm; No. 2 white, 34½c; No. 2 mixed, 33½c. Barley—C.i.f. Western, 46 to 58c. Rye—No. 1, in store, 86c. Canal freights—Steady; wheat, 3½c to New York.

Minneapolis, Nov. 22.—Wheat—Dec., $1.13⅝; May, $1.15½; Sept., 94½c; No. 1 hard, $1.18; No. 1 Northern, $1.15⅞; No. 2 Northern, $1.10⅞. Flour—First patents, $6.10 to $6.20; second patents, $5.95 to $6.05; first clears, $4.85 to $4.45; second clears, $2.85 to $2.95. Bran—Bulk, $15.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Nov. 22.—A moderate number of milch cows were on sale, but buyers alleged that business was quiet owing to drovers desiring higher figures than those offered on the ground that they had paid too much for their cows in the country. Values ranged from $30 to $50 each. Extra good cows would command a premium on these prices, while poor ones would have to be sold on a lower basis to allow a sufficient margin of profit to the buyers and sellers.

Exporters' cattle were quoted nominally at $4 to $4.70 per cwt.

The following were the quotations given for butchers' cattle:—Best butchers', $4.20 to $4.40; good butchers', loads of $3.85 to $4.15; fair to good, $3.50 to $3.70; cows, $2.50 to $3.12½; common and rough $1.50 to $2.

The following was the range of prices prevailing in stockers and feeders:—Feeders, short-keeps, 1,200 to 1,275 lbs., $3.90 to $4.10; feeders, 1,050 to 1,100 lbs., $3.40 to $3.75; feeders 800 to 1,025 lbs., $3 to $3.35; stockers, 600 to 800 lbs., $2.25 to $2.75; stockers, 400 to 600 lbs., $1.40 to $2; bulls, 900 to 1,200 lbs., $1.75 to $3.

The prices of sheep and lambs were as follows:—Export ewes, $3.50 to $3.65; export bucks, $2.50 to $2.75 per cwt.; sell sheep, $2 to $3 each; lambs, $4 to $4.65 per cwt.

Calves sold at $4 to 5½c per lb., and $2 to $10 each.

Hogs continue unchanged at $6.80 for selects, 160 to 200 lbs., if prime bacon quality, off cars, Toronto, fats and lights, $4.50.

PROTECTING FRUIT TREES.

Field Mice Ruined Thousands of Trees Last Winter.

The Fruit Division, Ottawa, issues the following warning: Last winter thousands of fruit trees were girdled and killed by mice, and the same thing will doubtless happen again the coming winter unless orchardists take precautions to prevent it. Mice are not usually very troublesome in orchards where clean cultivation is practised and rubbish is not allowed to accumulate as a shelter for them, but the orchardist will find it necessary to provide some sort of protection, if he wishes to be fairly sure of bringing his young trees safely through the winter.

The mice burrow along the ground under the snow in search of food, and as soon as they come to a young tree start to gnaw it. Wooden veneer is probably the most satisfactory protection against them, and it has the additional merit of being a good preventive of sunscald. The veneer is wrapped loosely around the trunk and tied; and an air space is left between it and the tree. These veneers cost from $3.75 to $5.00 per thousand. Ordinary building paper, which costs a mere trifle, is also a first-rate protection, but it is not of much value as a preventive of sunscald. Tar paper is also effective, but as trees have been injured by its use, it is better to be on the safe side and use something else. In any case, the lower end of the paper should be banked with earth, so that the mice cannot readily get under it to the tree. A mound of earth about a foot high around the base of the tree will often turn them, and even snow trampled about the tree has proved effectual, but these are not so trustworthy as the veneers or the building paper.

The Fruit Division also points out that this plague of mice is largely due to the common practice of destroying every owl and hawk that can possibly be shot or trapped. It is a great mistake to do this. All varieties of owls and hawks are great mousers, and mice constitute the bill-of-fare of most species. At least ten varieties of owls are classed as residents of Canada, and of these only the Great-horned owl is a menace to the farmer's poultry yard. Of hawks commonly found in Canada, only three are classed as chicken hawks, viz., the Sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, The Goshawk and four varieties usually known as "hen hawks," scarcely ever visit poultry yards, and an occasional depredation is far more than counterbalanced by the services as destroyers of mice, rats, squirrels and other enemies of the farmer.

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION.

Two Men Instantly Killed at Windsor Mills, Quebec.

A despatch from Windsor Mills, Que., says:—A terrible explosion occurred at the Hamilton Powder Company's mills here at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, instantly killing George Bertolet, a married man with a family of six children, and Joshua Witty, unmarried, a brother of Superintendent Witty. The shock was felt fifteen miles away.

A Buenos Ayres despatch states that the immigrant returns for October are 18,432, which is greatly in advance of last year.

MAKE SORTIES NIGHTLY

Port Arthur Garrison Attack Besiegers With Hand Grenades.

AT PORT ARTHUR.

A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Tien-Tsin says the latest reports from Port Arthur state that the Russians are persistently attacking the besieging parties of about fifty men in numerous sorties, night by night, throwing hand grenades into the Japanese trenches. They storm the enemy's outworks with the greatest daring, displaying absolute contempt for death. Their ordinary daily mortality is about seventy, but the Japanese losses are greater. The Japanese fleet is not assisting in the bombardment of the fortress. Admiral Togo has been ordered not to lose any of his ships, and he therefore keeps them out of range of the Russian batteries.

The Japanese army has only captured a few advanced trench works. The Chinese will and engage the Japanese, and the big permanent forts are not impaired. The outer fortifications at Port Arthur are untouched. Even the inner and outer forts at Panlung have not been taken. More than once the Japanese have badly blundered. They provided ladders only thirty feet long for the fifty-foot moats. The young officers are grumbling, and taking matters in their own hands.

DIRECTED JAP FIRE.

A despatch from Chefoo says:—The pilot on the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Rastoropny states that the Japanese shell directed against the harbor at Port Arthur are fired with great accuracy. A silk-clothed Chinaman, who was seen traveling, was watched by the Russians, who observed that the following the discharge of each shell he placed a handkerchief to his nose and then into his left pocket, alternately varying these movements, apparently thus signaling the range and places of the shells. The shells fell behind obstructions, which fact prevented the Japanese obtaining a direct view of their effects. The Chinaman was hanged.

One day last week a hospital ship moved too near the battleships in the harbor, whereupon the Japanese dropped small shells around her, with the obvious purpose of warning her away. The ship took the hint, and when she was outside the zone of ranges large shells began falling near the battleships.

MAY BE TROUBLE AT CHEFOO.

A despatch from London says:—The Central News correspondent at Chefoo represents the Japanese as being incensed at the Chinese authorities, whom they accuse of conniving with the Russians to hoodwink the Japanese concerning the Russian destroyer Razztoropny, which was sunk by her commander in Chefoo harbor after a successful run from Port Arthur. The Japanese also accuse the Chinese of allowing the ammunition, small arms and valuables from the Razztoropny to be deposited in the Russian Consulate, although these have since been transferred to the Chinese cruiser Hai-Yang in consequence of the Japanese Consul's protest. Another ground of complaint is that the Chinese authorities are guarding the Russian Consulate. Moreover the Hai-Yank has taken a position from which she is enabled to protect the Consulate. Rear-Admiral Fournier, of the American squadron, has notified the Chinese that he will land marines if there is trouble.

CONVERSE AMBUSH.

A despatch from Chefoo says:—Port Arthur has taken the Japanese assault on Oct. 26, according to Capt. Renberg, a passenger on the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Rastoropny.

The Japanese trenches, the Captain says, are closest to the forts on Rihlung and Kekwan Mountains and to other forts on the north-eastern group.

The sharpshooters of both sides occupying the positions converse with each other and frequently make individual truces in order to borrow cigarettes or to remove their cramped limits.

The Japanese are displaying great energy in the construction of their trenches and the mounting of guns.

All the railroad steamers belonging to the Russians, except the steel screw transport Angara, have been sunk by Japanese shells.

The hospital ship Angara, formerly a transport, has been sunk in shallow water. The patients are still on board the ship and are comfortable.

MERCIFUL JAP BULLETS.

San Francisco, Nov. 17.—Dr. N. Nogasi, of Tokio, who has personally attended many of the Japanese and Russian wounded in the hospitals of Japan since the beginning of hostilities, is here on his way to London to read a paper before a society of surgeons there on "Bullet Wounds and Their Treatment During the Present War." He expresses surprise at the way wounds inflicted by the small bullets used by the Japanese heal, and the small death rate which they cause. The Russian bullet used is far more deadly, he says.

DISGUISED CHINAMEN.

A despatch from Harbin says:—Orders have been given to the Japanese troops to shoot anyone resembling Chinese observed approaching the line, for fear they may be Russians in disguise. Notices have been posted offering a reward of $25 for every Chinese spy captured.

There have been numerous skirmishes, in which a number of Chinese bandits have been killed or captured by Russians.

JAPS AMBUSCADED.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—Gen. Kouropatkin reports that in an ambuscade on Nov. 15, near Sinchinpu, thirty-two Japanese dragoons were killed or wounded.

CONDENSED NEWS ITEMS

HAPPENINGS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE

Telegraphic Briefs From Our Own and Other Countries of Recent Events.

CANADA.

William Scott, City Treasurer of Winnipeg for the past twenty years, has tendered his resignation.

A petition has been presented to Saltfleet township council to have all the barrooms in the township abolished.

New and important bodies of high-grade hematite ore have been struck in a mine on the Algoma Central Railway.

Dr. Rutherford, of McGill University, Montreal, has been awarded the Rumford medal for his researches in connection with radium.

Engineer Garnet of the electric light station at West Prince Albert, Sask., was killed by an electric shock in the light station on Saturday.

Young Catholics in Hamilton feel strongly over Bishop Dowling's order that there shall be no dances under the auspices of Catholic societies.

The likelihood is that the Government will charter two powerful tugs to steam between Lake Superior ports in the hope of prolonging the period of navigation.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. George L. Watson, the celebrated yacht designer, died in Glasgow on Saturday.

UNITED STATES.

Eleven were killed in a head-on collision on the Union Pacific on Saturday.

Frank Jordan, colored, was killed, and Wm. Lawyer, colored, and Foreman W. A. Seay, white, were badly injured by an explosion of dynamite in the Laurel Line tunnel at Scranton, Pa., on Saturday.

Dixon, Iowa, Savings Bank is bankrupt. The bank is alleged to have been wrecked some time ago by Arnold Bouthilet, its cashier, who is now a fugitive from justice. Depositors at Dixon and Nye Liberty will lose about $100,000.

Eldridge, M. Fowler, a lumberman, formerly of Duluth, is dead in Pasadena, Cal. He was seventy years old and leaves a fortune estimated at $32,000,000. Fowler was the largest individual mine owner in the mesabe range.

A row over the payment for a round of drinks in Buffalo, N.Y., on Saturday, resulted in a shooting affray which may cause the death of two men. Giuseppi Lamarca, 42 years old, a Canal street saloon-keeper, was shot in the groin, and Anthony Shephiro, 38 years old, has a bullet wound in the head.

In a dispute over a small barn situated between their lots, Prof. T. P. Gifford, of Decorah, Iowa, superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school, struck Hosea Bigelow, a wealthy retired farmer, on the head with a rake, inflicting injuries from which Bigelow died five hours later. Prof. Gifford is head of a business college, and formerly was principal of Pike Seminary in Batavia, N.Y.

GENERAL.

Prince Mirsky has drawn up a plan of representative government for Russia.

Duels in Paris showed the bitterness between the army and Parliamentary circles.

The Czar released a Nihilist woman confined for twenty years, and sent her to Siberia.

Germany has issued a supplemental budget for $20,000,000 on account of the West Africa troubles.

A corrected casualty list places the Russian killed or wounded at the battle of the Shakhe River at 33,250.

The Danish Government will accept President Roosevelt's invitation to participate in a second peace conference.

Premier Combes introduced to the French Chamber of Deputies a bill for the separation of Church and State.

MAID IN HIS OWN GOWN.

The following amusing incident occurred at a ball given by the mayor of one of the big manufacturing towns of England. At one end of the large hall where it was held there was a small portion curtained off for cards. Two young men behind this were drawing on their gloves preparatory to doing the "light fantastic," and the following conversation took place:—

"I say, Briggs, have you danced with Miss Portly?"

"No; who is she, and what is she like?"

"Oh, she is that short, stout person in green silk."

"Great Scot! Dance with that lump? No, thanks. It would be like drawing a cart around the room."

"Yes, old fello, but you must remember that she has any amount of cash. Thirty thousand pounds if a penny."

"Oh, that alters the case. I'll go and ask the 'old girl' for a dance, if you'll introduce me."

Now it so happed that the "old girl" had been sitting on the other side of the curtain and had heard all the foregoing conversation. She moved quickly away, and was sitting some distance off when little Briggs was brought up to be introduced. After going through that ceremony, he asked if he might have the pleasure of putting his name down for a dance.

"Dance with me, Mr. Briggs?" said Miss Portly, with a smile. "Oh, dear, no! I belong to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and I should be much too heavy a cart for a little donkey like you to draw!"

AFRICA AGAIN EXPLORED

REGIONS WHERE WHITES MAY LIVE AND THRIVE.

Country North of Lake Tanganyika Healthful Region Found.

Major A. H. Gibbons, of England, has returned from his latest explorations in Africa, with a record of some of the best work that has been done for years.

On the upper Zambesi River is the native kingdom of Marotselaod, whose ruler, Lewanika, has widened his borders during his thirty years power till it is about as large as Great Britain and France together. A powerful ruler, who attracted the attention in England when the coronation went there to attend how complete of King Edward, is under British influence, and is very desirous that his people shall advance in the ways of civilization.

His country was comparatively little known. The task which Gibbons set for himself and his assistants in his two series of explorations was to cross the continent in all directions for the purpose of making a good map of it and studying its resources and peoples. This has done this with great care and labor, and has made a valuable contribution to our

KNOWLEDGE OF AFRICA.

The explorer believes that there are large parts of the high regions of tropical Africa which are well adapted for occupation by the white races. This opinion is worth noting, as it comes from a man who is conservative in his statements. His work, extending over years, has lived chiefly on the plateaus of the interior. He has never had a touch of fever, and in spite of his years of pioneering his health has been good, or better, in Africa than anything, the climate which the people in tropical latitudes are said to enjoy. There are regions in tropical Africa which, Major Gibbons says, offering the prospects for European settlement. One of them is the plateau of Marotselaod, which rises from 3,500 to 5,000 feet above the level of the sea, and is capable of growing many useful products, extending over considerable areas. There cotton, sugar, rubber, and many fruits, that country, and in the lower of Africa will lands, in the lower cattle do better in any other part of the world, his experience, and he has seen so much of inner Africa, and he has travelled through it from Cape Town to the Mediterranean.

AN EQUAL GOOD REGION

is the highlands of Uganda to the north of Victoria Nyanza, where, Major Gibbons says, wheat growing may be developed, and why wheat may be sent with profit to England, although the country is far away. Where the Nile comes from there will be navigation between the Victoria Nyanza and Egypt.

But the Europeans to which little is known, Major Gibbons says, is not yet drawn. It is the region of all is one of the highlands of Ruanda, north of Lake Tanganyika, which, the most healthful part he has seen in Africa.

The country rises to 5,000 and nearly 6,000 feet above sea level. It is a mountainous region, with no end of plantations of well-tilled fields of grain, sweet potatoes, beans, peas and other crops. Major Gibbons says that the people are far above the average African in agricultural attainment, their fields have considerable extent, balance to those of southern Europe.

Dr. Kandt, the German scientist, told him of dysentery and fever germs among the highlands of Ruanda. Major Gibbons adds that the country is a region of fresh fast flowing streams, green, native villages and the lowing of cattle and the bleating of sheep give it

A QUITE ALPINE AND TORAL NOTE.

The mountains are 8,000 to 12,000 feet in height, and overlooked by the mountains and farming lands of the Kivo, whose surface is 1,500 feet above the sea.

It is therefore, of all the great African lakes, the highest of the lakes. Kivo has another unique distinction. It is the only lake of water among the tropical African lakes which contains neither crocodiles nor hippotamus. No reason is known for this, unless it is that there are no reeds or rushes growing around the shores, as the waves in windy weather prevent vegetation springing up. The African reed and rushes are the natural haunts of the crocodile and the hippotamus, and they cannot be found in Kivo. This lake was the last of the Central African lakes to be discovered.

Major Gibbons says that considering the healthfulness of the Kivo regions, their fertility of the soil, and the richness of the country, little doubt that when the facts are offered the settlement of the country on an extensive scale by European colonists will soon follow.

WITHOUT A BEGGAR.

Mendicancy is almost vanished in Switzerland, where it used to be so prevalent. Every effort is made by the cantons to work for all who desire to work, those who do not desire to work are forced to do so in institutions erected for that purpose. In the canton of Schwyz a law imposes a fine on "persons who, by giving alms, encourage begging from house to house or in the street."