

PEACE IS NOW IN SIGHT

Czar is Reported to Have Been Persuaded to Open Negotiations.

PEACE IN SIGHT.

A despatch from London says:—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph declares that, despite the seemingly hopeless outlook owing to the Czar's hitherto firm resolve to persist in the war, peace at last is in sight. The correspondent adds that he makes this statement deliberately and categorically, and not as a probable inference from the signs and tokens observable during the last few days.

CONFIRMED IN PARIS.

A despatch from Paris says:—The prospects of peace between Russia and Japan assumed a more definite and almost a tangible aspect on Friday as the result of the announcement of the resumption of negotiations for a Russian loan. The postponement of the loan occurred through the stand taken by the financial element against proceeding while the uncertainties of war continued, while a willingness to resume negotiations was construed as meaning that their strong influence finally has prevailed with the authorities at St. Petersburg. The announcement of the resumption of negotiations took definite form in a communication to the syndicate of Agents de Change, who form an influential element on the Bourse, holding Government credentials.

The receipt of an official despatch at St. Petersburg on March 20, saying that the Japanese were approaching Vladivostok, is said to have induced the determination to seek a pacific solution. On the other hand, it is insisted that Japanese proximity to Vladivostok promises to be a chief obstacle in the way of peace, as diplomats conversant with the situation say that Japan will seek to avert peace until she possesses Russia's only outlet to the Pacific coast.

EMPEROR'S ATTITUDE.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says: The information contained in despatches for more than a week regarding the change in Emperor Nicholas' attitude concerning the advisability of making a pacific proposal to Japan is fully confirmed, and in very high quarters peace within six weeks is regarded as certain.

The positiveness with which this is affirmed would indicate that the Government is already in possession of information as to the Japanese terms which indicate the basis to which Russia can agree.

The exact situation is shrouded in mystery. The secret of what has been done and what is being done is zealously guarded. It is learned, however, from a source close to the throne that pourparlers are actually in progress, but possibly only of a preliminary character, and that Copenhagen may be the scene of the first exchanges between representatives of the two powers.

In this connection importance is being attached to the visit of M. d'Iswolesky, Russian Minister at Copenhagen, and Baron Rosen, former Russian Minister to Japan, to M. Bompard, the French Ambassador to Russia, Tuesday. The parties to this conference refuse to admit that significance is attached to it. In the meantime the Foreign Office is silent.

FEARS FOR VLADIVOSTOCK.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times says he has exceptionally good authority for stating that the mobilization plans for the present are in abeyance. Generals Dragomiroff and Grodekoff within the last few days obtained corrected reports of the Russian casualties and other losses, and are able to estimate the strength of the Russian position. They believe that Gen. Linevitch is in no immediate danger, but the gravest concern is felt for Vladivostock.

The official reports received immediately after the Battle of Mukden were in many respects exaggerated, especially regarding the losses of the Daghestan and Gen. Rennenkampf's brigades, but the general staff is still unable to give the total Russian losses. The correspondent adds that peace rumors continue to circulate, their increasing persistency being due to a belief in the likelihood of the acceptance of the good offices of France as mediator.

RUSSIANS RETREATING.

A despatch from Gunshu Pass says: Chinese state that the Japanese have recruited many Chinese bandits, and that probably they are now able to count a superiority in cavalry as well as infantry.

The Japanese are following the Russian rear-guard, which is moving north from Santoupan at the rate of eight and a half miles a day. On both flanks the Japanese are operating a wide turning movement, but the strength of the flanking forces has not been definitely ascertained.

At a number of places along the railroad between Santoupan and Gunshu Pass there are broken hills with steep sides and gorges at the

bottom where stubborn resistance might be made, but it is doubtful whether Gen. Linevitch will make a stand before he reaches the Sungari River and Chantgia. Unless he is able to hold the line of the river the Russian position will be so weak strategically that he may be compelled to retire back of Harbin into Siberia, owing to the fact that as they approach Harbin the Russian front parallels the railroad, rendering the danger of a severance of the sole line of communication constantly greater. The prospect of the isolation of Vladivostock must also be met, and it is urgently necessary to supply the garrison with provisions and ammunition, not for a few months, but for two years.

Two hundred thousand reinforcements from Russia are now necessary to make it possible for the Russians to meet the Japanese on anything like even terms. The branch of the Russo-Chinese Bank has removed from Kirin to Harbin after an attack on the bank office, in which two of the guards were wounded with cobblestones.

Captured Japanese report that a terrible affray took place in the streets of Mukden, March 10, when a big detachment of Russians, the last to leave the city were entrapped by Chinese bandits and a few Japanese soldiers, who closed the city gates and blocked the narrow streets. According to the report, which is not confirmed, not a Russian escaped. Field Marshal Oyama has communicated to Gen. Linevitch the news that the entire Russian medical staff which remained in Mukden after the evacuation is uninjured and well.

ALFRED QUIRK MURDERED

Strangled in Grip of His Insane Brother.

A Strathroy despatch says: On Saturday afternoon about 4 o'clock three little children of Robert Quick, of the tenth concession, Cardiac Township, about one and a half miles south of this place, ran screaming out of their home to the neighbors, crying that their father had killed their uncle, Alfred, and asking them to go back with them. Word was quickly brought to town, and Coroner Dr. A. Thompson, with Chief Wilson and Assistant Hank Cline, went out to the scene of the tragedy. Assistant Sline held the murderer, while Chief Wilson soon had the bracelets on, and brought him to the jail here. It appears Robert Quick has shown symptoms of insanity before. Saturday morning he had a spell, and his brother, Alfred, came over to watch him. Alfred went back home, thinking his brother was all right, and again in the afternoon came over to get his hair cut. While Robert was cutting his hair the former threw the scissors away, grabbing Alfred. A terrible struggle ensued. It looked as though the brothers scuffled from the kitchen to the front room, where Robert finally strangled Alfred to death. Robert buried his wife about four years ago, and leaves five small children, and says "the Lord told him to do it." Alfred was the only support of his widowed mother. There is one brother living in the "Soo" and one in Michigan.

FIRED UPON A PRIEST.

A Mysterious Shooting Affray in Winnipeg.

A Winnipeg despatch says: Rev. W. Blozowski, priest of the Independent Polish Church, in the North-end, and editor of a paper called Prouda, was the central figure in a sensational and mysterious shooting affair about 2 o'clock on Sunday morning. Two shots were fired at him through the window, as he sat at a table in his residence studying. One of the bullets struck the lamp, which exploded, setting fire to the house and causing the destruction of the contents of the room, including a number of valuable oil paintings. The police are working on the case, but up till a late hour no arrests had been made. The priest had been taking active part in some religious controversies recently, and it is believed that the shots were fired by a fanatic opposed to his doctrines. He is suffering from nervous shock, and has taken refuge at the house of one of his congregation.

GAS SUPPLY EXHAUSTED.

Wells Near Brantford are Now Declared Worthless.

A Brantford despatch says: The supply of natural gas in this city and vicinity has been exhausted, and the score of wells of the Brantford company, on which thousands of dollars have been expended, are worthless. Since June natural gas has been used here exclusively. A change has been made to the manufactured product at higher rates to consumers.

LEADING MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

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

Toronto, March 28.—Wheat—No. 2 white and red Winter quoted at \$1.04 to \$1.05 at outside points. No. 2 goose quoted at 80 to 90c east. Manitoba wheat is unchanged. Quotations at North Bay as follows:—No. 1 Northern, \$1.09; No. 2 Northern, \$1.06; No. 3 Northern, \$1.05. Oats—No. 2 white are quoted at 41 to 42c at outside points, and at 44c here. No. 1 white at 45c east. Barley—No. 2 quoted at 47 to 48c middle freights; No. 3 extra at 45c, and No. 3 at 43c middle freights. Peas—The market is steady, with dealers quoting 67 to 68c at outside points. Corn—Canadian yellow quoted at 47½ to 48c, and mixed at 47c west, guaranteed sound. American No. 2 yellow, 57c, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 56½c. Rye—No. 2 is nominal at 70 to 71c at outside points. Buckwheat—No. 2 quoted at 58 to 59c low freights. Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are quoted at \$4.50 to \$4.55 in buyers' sacks east or west; straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade, in bbls., \$5 to \$5.10. Manitoba flours are firm. No. 1 patents, \$5.60 to \$5.70; No. 2 patents, \$5.30 on track, Toronto. Millfeed—At outside points bran is quoted at \$15.50 to \$16, and shorts at \$17.50. Manitoba bran in sacks, \$18, and shorts at \$20.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Choice stock, \$2.50 to \$3 per bbl.; cooking apples, \$1.50 per bbl. Beans—Primes sell in small lots at \$1.60 to \$1.65, and hand-picked at \$1.70 to \$1.75 per bushel. Hops—The market is unchanged at 32 to 35c, according to quality. Honey—The market is quiet at 7½ to 8c per lb. Comb honey, \$1.75 to \$2 per dozen. Evaporated apples—Dealers quote 5¼c, and dried at 3 to 3½c per lb. Maple syrup—Genuine syrup quoted at \$1 to \$1.15 per Imperial gallon, and mixed 90c. Sugar is quoted at 9 to 11c per lb. Hay—Car lots of No. 1 timothy are quoted at \$8 to \$8.50 on track here, and No. 2 at \$6.50 to \$7. Straw—The market is unchanged, with car lots quoted at \$6 to \$6.50 on track, Toronto. Potatoes—Car lots of Ontarios are quoted at 65 to 70c per bag, on track, and jobbing lots at 80c. Poultry—Spring chickens, 12 to 13c per lb.; hens, 9 to 10c; ducks, 11 to 12c per lb.; geese, 10 to 11c per lb.; turkeys, dry picked, 14 to 15c; do scalded, 11 to 12c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Finest 1-lb rolls are quoted at 24 to 25c per lb.; large rolls, at 22 to 23c; tubs, 20 to 21c, and low grades at 16 to 18c. Creamery prints, 26 to 27c per lb. and solids at 25 to 26c. Eggs—New laid are selling at 17c per dozen, in case lots. Cheese—The market is very firm, with demand good. Large cheese are selling at 11¼ to 11½c, and twins at 12c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Car lots quoted at \$8 to \$8.25 on track. Bacon, long clears, 9 to 9½c per lb. in case lots; mess pork, \$15; short cut, \$19. Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 13 to 13½c; heavy, 12½c; rolls, 9½c; shoulders, 9c; backs, 14 to 14½c; breakfast bacon, 12½ to 13c. Lard—Tierces, 8½c; tubs, 9½c; pails, 9c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, March 28.—Grain—Sales of No. 2 Oats 45½c store, and of No. 3 at 44 to 44½c. Flour—Manitoba patents, \$5.70 to \$5.80; strong bakers', \$5.40 to \$5.50; high Ontario blended patents, \$5.75 to \$5.90, in wood; choice 90 per cent. patents, \$5.50 to \$5.60 in wood, and 25c per barrel less in shippers' new bags; straight rollers, \$2.50 to \$2.55, and 25 to 50c extra in wood. Rolled oats—\$2.10 to \$2.12½ per bag of 90 pounds, \$4.45 to \$4.50 in barrels. Feed—Ontario bran, in bulk, \$17.50 to \$18.50; shorts, \$19 to \$20; Manitoba bran, in bags, \$18 to \$19; shorts, \$20 to \$21. Beans—Choice primes, \$1.40 to \$1.45 per bush.; \$1.25 to \$1.27½ in car lots. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, \$16.50 to \$17.50; light short cut, \$16.50 to \$17; American cut clear fat backs, \$20; compound lard, 6½ to 7c; Canadian lard, 6½ to 7½c; kettle rendered, 8½ to 9½c, according to quality; hams, 12 to 13c; bacon, 13c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, \$9 to \$9.25; heavy fat sows, \$5.15 to \$5.35; select, \$6.65 to \$6.75 off cars; country dressed, \$7.25 to \$7.75. Cheese—Ontario Fall white, 11 to 11½c; colored, 11½c; Quebec, 10 to 10½c. Butter—Finest grades, 26 to 27c for 30-lb. tubs, 26c for 70-lb tubs; choice Fall and Winter make, 23 to 25c; Western dairy, 21½ to 22c; roll butter, 21 to 22c. Eggs—Montreal limed, nominal, 18 to 19c; new laid, 20c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Milwaukee, March 28.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.16; No. 2 Northern, \$1.12 to \$1.13½; July, 91½c. Rye—No. 1, 81½c. Barley—No. 2, 51c;

MANY LIVES WERE IN PERIL

Allan Liner Parisian Sinks After Collision Off Halifax.

A despatch from Halifax, N.S., says:—Nearly two thousand passengers on two ocean steamships were in peril of their lives early on Saturday evening off the entrance to Halifax Harbor when the Parisian, of the Allan Line, and the Albano, of the Hamburg-American Line, crashed together.

Both vessels were seriously damaged, and the passengers on each were thrown into a panic, but no person was hurt and each steamship succeeded in reaching its dock and disembarking its passengers. The Parisian's stern touched bottom as she ranged alongside her wharf, while hard pumping kept the Albano free.

Both steamers were from European ports, the Parisian from Liverpool and Moville, and the Albano from Hamburg. The Parisian had on board a thousand passengers, many of whom were bound for her other port, St. John, N.B. The Albano carried about eight hundred passengers, nearly all for Philadelphia, to which port she was to have proceeded after calling here.

WAS TAKING ON PILOT.

The Parisian arrived off the entrance to the harbor at dusk and was taking a pilot on board when the Albano was seen coming in from sea. As the German boat approached the officers of the Parisian realized that there was danger of a collision, and the engine-rooms were signaled for full speed ahead. Before the Parisian could get under way, however, the Albano struck her on the starboard side, a short distance astern of the engine-room, crushing in the great steel plates and opening up a hole through which the water poured in tons.

The bow plates of the Albano were bent and the stem was twisted, but her water-tight compartments were promptly closed and her pumps set vigorously at work.

Immediately following the collision the steamers headed into the harbor at full speed, the Parisian with a heavy list to starboard and the Albano somewhat down at the head. The Parisian had considerable water in her stern, which was steadily sink-

ing deeper as she steamed along.

Both vessels whistled for help. Every tug in the harbor responded, and as the Parisian appeared to be in the greater danger, several ranged themselves alongside that vessel and assisted in the pumping. PASSENGERS PANIC-STRICKEN.

Passengers on each vessel begged the tugboat men to take them off, but the little vessels clung to the sides of the great liners and did not leave them until they were safe at their docks.

Many passengers rushed excitedly about the decks, while others knelt in prayer. The officers were unable to thoroughly reassure them, but within a few minutes after the collision all had been supplied with life preservers, while the lifeboats were hoisted out ready for instant launching in case the vessels showed signs of foundering. The suspense of those on board the Parisian was intense. Great volumes of water were pouring from the vessel, the engines quivering with the exertion of running the numerous pumps and keeping the vessel plowing along at top speed. Halfway up the harbor the Parisian's stern had settled many feet, and the list to starboard had become most pronounced, but the steamer kept on, until at last the bright light on the dock was seen and those on board realized that the danger had passed. The vessel ranged alongside her wharf, lines were thrown out, gang-planks lowered, and the thousand passengers rushed to land as the stern of the vessel touched the bottom.

FINE DISCIPLINE SHOWN.

The Albano, which was behind the Parisian, had a somewhat similar experience, although her pumps were able to keep her bow compartments fairly free, so that the alarm on board was not so great.

The Albano reached her dock a short time after the Parisian, and all passengers, only a few of whom were booked for this port, hurried ashore. The discipline exhibited on both steamers following the accident was admirable.

ICE BREAKER HARD AT IT

Navigation in St. Lawrence Will Open Earlier.

A Quebec despatch says: The Government steamer and ice-breaker Montcalm, which had its propellers repaired, is now doing excellent work in the interest of early spring navigation to Montreal by breaking up the ice formation at Cape Rouge, in the narrow part of the St. Lawrence channel, some seven miles above Quebec. This ice formation generally holds until late in the spring, and retards navigation west of Quebec sometimes as late as May 1, especially as the ice forms from the very bottom of the river, which is shallow at this part.

TROOPS SHOOT PEASANTS.

More Labor Disturbances in Russian Poland.

A Kutno, Russian Poland despatch says: Ten peasants were killed and fifty were wounded at Lamenta, on Tuesday, as the result of the shooting of infantry sent to quell disturbances. A crowd of peasants from Benignowa proceeded to Lamenta to induce the farm laborers to strike, and rioting occurred. The chief of police, with a company of soldiers, went to the scene, and the troops fired two volleys at the peasants, killing two on the spot and wounding fifty. The latter were brought in carts to the hospital here, where seven men and one woman subsequently died. Eleven others are dying. Kutno is situated 70 miles west of Warsaw. It has a population of about 10,000.

WILL REFUSE BAIT.

Newfoundland's Revenge on United States Senate.

A St. John's, Nfld., despatch says: A member of the Newfoundland Government has ordered the Customs collectors throughout the Island to refuse United States fishing vessels license to procure bait in colonial waters, because the United States Senate buried the Bond-Hay treaty. The advocates of retaliation against Americans say they can make the crusade as effective against Gloucester as they have already made it against St. Pierre.

DROPPED DEAD.

Secretary of Guelph Fat Stock Show Died Suddenly.

A Guelph despatch says: One of the best known stockmen in the province, Mr. John McCorkindale, dropped dead here on Friday, heart failure being the cause. Mr. McCorkindale was secretary of the Fat Stock Show, a director of the Provincial Winter Fair, besides being a member of many other provincial agricultural and stock associations.

sample, 39 to 50c. Corn—No. 3, 47½ to 47¾c; May, 48½c bid.

Minneapolis, March 28.—Wheat—May, \$1.13½; July, \$1.09½ to \$1.09½; September, 87½ to 87¾c; No. 1 hard, \$1.16½; No. 1 Northern, \$1.14½; No. 2 Northern, \$1.11½. Flour—First patents, \$6.20 to \$6.30; second patents, \$6 to \$6.10; first clears, \$4.35 to \$4.55; second clears, \$2.80 to \$2.90. Bran—In bulk, \$14.25.

St. Louis, March 28.—Wheat—Cash \$1.05½; May, \$1.05½; July, 85¾c; September, 83¾c.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, March 28.—The export trade is steady, though no higher prices were paid to-day, and generally not quite so high as a few days ago, but this was because of the poor quality of the cattle offering, which are not at all well finished cattle. There was good demand for short-keep feeders.

Run—52 cars, with 764 head of cattle, 123 sheep and lambs, 1,100 hogs, and 90 calves.

Export—Market firm at \$4.85 to \$5 for picked, and \$4.40 to \$4.85 for the general run; cows, \$3.50 to \$4; bulls, \$3 to \$3.40; export bulls, \$3.25 to \$3.75.

Butchers—Market 25c higher; choice picked butchers, \$4.40 to \$4.70; the latter good enough for light export; good butchers, \$4 to \$4.25.

Short-keep feeders—Very good demand and market higher, at \$4.40 to \$4.70.

Stockers—Market steady at \$3.25 to \$3.50; feeders, short-keep, at \$3.80 to \$4.50.

Sheep and Lambs—Market firm; prospects steady. Export ewes, \$4.75 to \$5.25; bucks, \$3.50 to \$4.25; lambs, \$6.75 to \$7.35; barnyard lambs, \$5.50 to \$6.50; dull; spring lambs, \$4 to \$8 each.

Calves—Market firmer.

Hogs—Market steady to firm; selects, \$6.25; lights and fats, \$6 to \$6.75.

WARSHIP LAUNCHED.

Another Japanese Leviathan Leaves the Slips.

A Newcastle-on-Tyne despatch says:—The new Japanese battleship Kashima was launched on Wednesday at the Elswick ship-building yards, in the presence of Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister to Great Britain. In a subsequent address Minister Hayashi said the Japanese successes on the sea were largely due to the fact that more than a dozen of their great warships were built in England. He was sorry the Kashima could not participate in the war; but the war must end some time, and thereafter the powerful vessel would be used to maintain peace in the Far East.