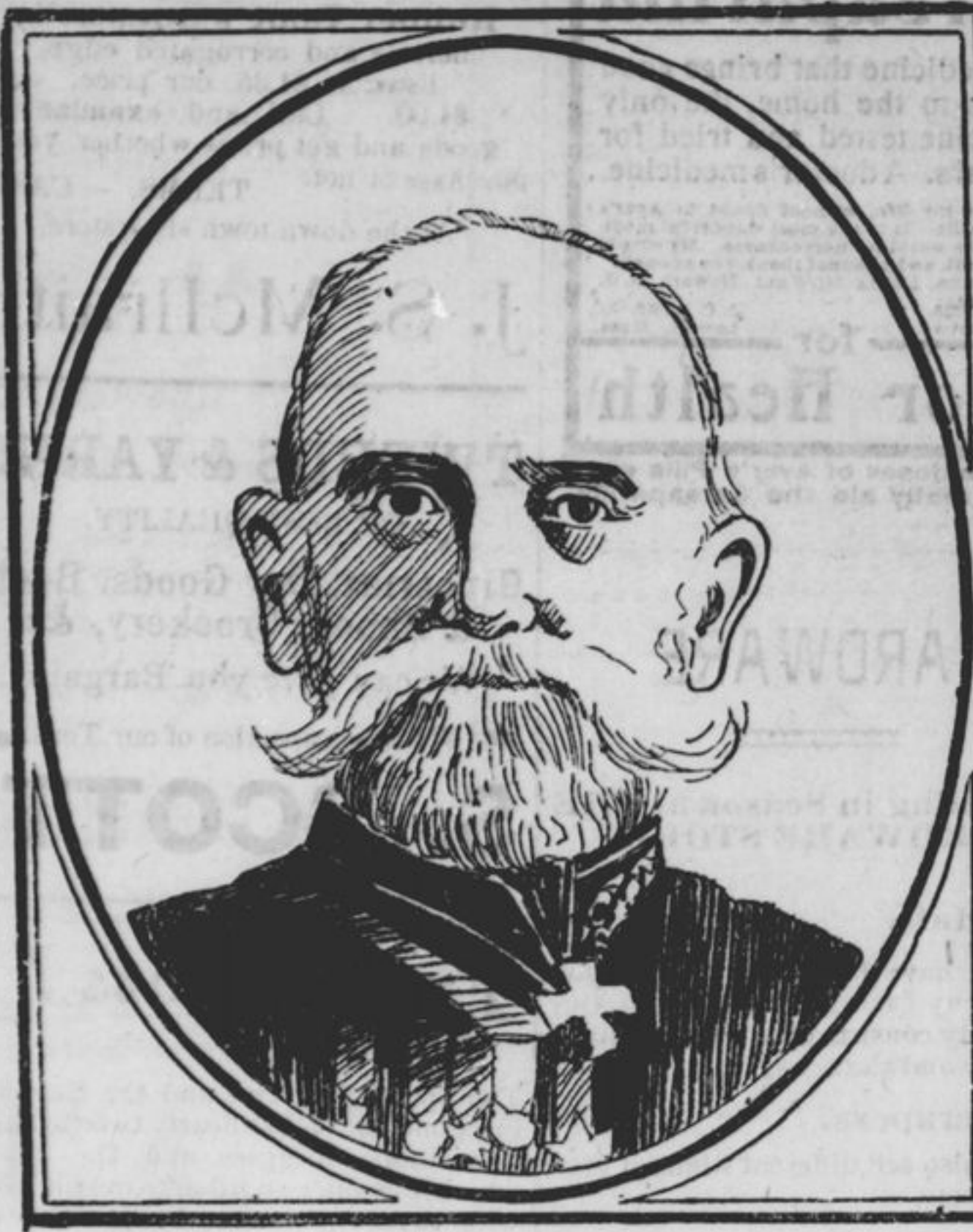


THE CAPTURE OF TIELING SEVERE BLOW TO RUSSIA.

Nothing Definite as to the Result of the Fight Now in Progress North of Tie Pass.

Gen. Linevitch, it is Reported, Will Succeed Kouropatkin in the Supreme Command.

Concessions That France Thinks Russia Should Make to Japan.



GENERAL LINEVITCH,
Placed in Supreme Command of the Russian Forces at the Front.

It transpires that Emperor Nicholas upon the advice of Gen. Dragomiroff and War Minister Sakharoff determined that the step was necessary when it became apparent yesterday morning that Kouropatkin while concentrating for a stand at Tie Pass seemed unaware that the Japanese had worked around westward again and practically allowed himself to be surprised. Old reports brought by Gen. Gripenberg regarding Kouropatkin's falling mentality also had to be considered in the Russian view of the exceedingly perilous position of the army to turn over the command to Linevitch, who alone had been able to bring off his army in order after the battle of Mukden. His record during the Chinese war had also demonstrated his capability as a commander. Kouropatkin will return to St. Petersburg forthwith. The task assigned to Gen. Linevitch, of withdrawing what is left of the great army of 300,000 men to Harbin, is a desperate one. He is hemmed in on all sides. Gen. Kavamura presumably is pressing northward through the mountains to the eastward ready to swoop down; General Noei and Oku are on the west of the Russian front; the whole line of the railroad is threatened if not already cut, and Chinese bands are even reported to be in the rear of Harbin. A consummation of the Mukden disaster is feared. Napoleon's plight in retreat from Moscow with Kutsoff's Cossacks harassing the starving, freezing Frenchmen was hardly as bad or dangerous. Nothing further has arrived from the front, but it is feared that the decimated battalions which had hardly recovered from the demoralization of the Mukden retreat, have again been thrown into confusion, by Field Marshal Oyama's relentless, merciless pursuit. The War Office fears that more of the siege and field guns which Kouropatkin managed to save at Mukden have been sacrificed in the hurried flight from Tie Pass. The question of ammunition and food is also vital as it is known that the Russians were compelled to burn further stores at Tie Pass where the commissariat was beginning to feed the half famished troops when the retreat was ordered. But even in the face of the possibility of the complete loss of the army and the admitted fact that the Emperor is already possibly losing, preparations for continuing the war on a large scale than ever are proceeding. The diet has gone forth that another army of 450,000 men is to be despatched to the far east and in order to avoid delay it has been decided instead of sending only reserve men to form new armies largely of regular units, leaving the reserves to replace the regulars in garrison duty at home. Many military men have contended that it is a fatal mistake to send reserve men to the far east. A division of the Imperial Guard will be sent to the front. It is not improbable that some of this year's conscripts will be sent. Separate armies are to be organized under Generals Grodekoff, Gripenberg and Kamuroff. Even in the most optimistic quarters, however, it is realized that a general mobilization is likely to be accompanied by widespread disorders unless the composition and functions of the popular representation under the Imperial rescript are more satisfactory than now appears probable. Practically no progress is being made by the Bonilian commission. The emperor has been so much occupied with the war situation that he has since postponed action on Gov. Gen. Bouleuan's recommendations, and the latter is represented to be so dissatisfied that he desires to resign and turn over his work to his assistant, M. Valatski. The war council, it is also understood, has definitely decided that Vice-Admiral

even in winter. The most important Russian town between Tie Pass and Harbin, with the exception of Kirin, which is not on the railway, is Kwanung, (also spelled Kunching). This town is a little over 100 miles north of Tie Pass.

Here were gathered great stores of provisions, alongside of which were erected Red Cross hospitals, the best by far that the Russians had south of Harbin. At all the other stations there were also hospital accommodations, so that if Kouropatkin escapes he has a good country to cross at the most favorable season of the year. Another few weeks and the roads would be impassable. But if he is hard pressed, there is not a defensible position, unless he abandons the railway and seeks safety in the eastern hills. Later in the year, of course, the rivers would afford some protection, but in winter, being frozen, they are as easy to cross as in the country. West of Harbin along the railway the first hills are encountered about midway between Harbin and the Siberian border. These mountains are most formidable, several switchbacks and tunnels being necessary to carry the railway over them.

A SEVERE REVERSE.

Times Correspondent Says Railway Has Been Cut.

A London cable. A despatch to the Times from St. Petersburg says that according to the latest reports, which the general staff does not confirm, the Russians have sustained a severe reverse at Tieling, compelling them to abandon their remaining stores and artillery. It is also reported that the Japanese have cut the railway north of Changtun. It is not known which Japanese commander is conducting the pursuit of the Russians. One St. Petersburg correspondent says he learns that Gen. Sussulitch and Zarubaitoff are commanding the rear-guard, and that Gen. Mistechenko is protecting the Russian right. This correspondent adds that he believes that Gen. Kouropatkin's entire command is now about three hundred thousand men, including the railway guards, the garrisons at Vladivostok, and the fourth army corps, which is just arriving.

According to the St. Petersburg correspondent, the Chronicle officials at the Ministry of War say that the Russian

Federal Life Assurance Company OF CANADA

23rd Annual Report and Financial Statement

For the Year Ending December 31, 1904.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held at the head office of the Company, in Hamilton, Tuesday, March 7th, 1905, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The following reports and financial statement were submitted:

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your Directors have the honor to present the report and financial statement of the Company for the year which closed on the 31st December, 1904, duly vouched for by the Auditors.

The new business of the year consisted of two thousand two hundred and fifty applications for insurance, aggregating \$3,146,500, of which two thousand one hundred and seventy-seven applications for \$2,010,400.50, were accepted. The assets of the Company have been increased by \$255,970.52, and have now reached \$2,148,773.37, exclusive of guarantee capital.

The security for policyholders, including guarantee capital, amounted at the close of the year to \$3,018,773.37, and the liabilities for reserves at the end of 1904 to other payments, including a surplus of \$1,055,257.21. Exclusive of outstanding claims, \$1,902,935.56, showing a surplus of \$1,055,257.21.

Policies on eighty-two lives became claims through death, to the amount of \$157,040.00, of which \$12,685 was reinsured in other companies.

Including cash dividends and dividends applied to the reduction of premiums, with annuities, the total payment to policyholders amounted to \$1,918,115.44. Careful attention has been given to the investment of the company's funds, in first class bonds, mortgage securities, and loans on the company's policies amply secured by reserves. Our investments have yielded a very satisfactory rate of interest.

Expenses have been confined to a reasonable limit, consistent with due efforts for new business.

The results of the year indicate a most gratifying progress. Compared with the preceding year, the figures submitted by the directors for your approval show an advance of thirteen and a half per cent. in assets.

The assurances carried by the company now amount to \$1,604,806.23, upon which the company holds reserves to the full amount required by law, and, in addition thereto, a considerable surplus.

The field officers of the company are intelligent and loyal, and are entitled to much credit for their able representation of the company's interests. The members of the office staff have also proved faithful to the company's service.

Your directors are pleased to be able to state that the business of the company for the past two months of the year has been better than in the corresponding months of last year, and that the outlook for the future is very bright.

DAVID DEXTER, President and Managing Director.

AUDITORS' REPORT

Gentlemen,—We have carefully audited the books and records of your company for the year ending 31st December last, and have certified to their accuracy.

The cash and journal vouchers have been closely examined and agree with the entries recorded.

The debenture bonds, etc., in the possession of the company have been inspected, whilst those deposited with the Government or banks have been verified by certificate, the total agreeing with the amount as shown in the statement of assets.

The accompanying statements, viz. revenue, assets and liabilities, show the result of the year's operations, and also, the financial position of the company.

Respectfully submitted,
H. S. STEPHENS,
CHARLES STIFF,
Auditors.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1904

RECEIPTS.	
Hamilton, March 1st, 1905.	
Premium and annuity income	\$ 42,298 37
Interest, rents, and profit on sale of securities	86,329 01
Total	\$ 128,627 38
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Paid to policyholders	128,911 24
Salaries and expenses	191,829 79
Balance	228,154 29
Total	\$ 548,905 32
ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 1904.	
Debentures on bonds	\$ 853,282 82
Mortgages	298,368 83
Loans on policies, bonds, stocks, etc.	410,615 32
All other assets	348,606 29
Total	\$ 1,887,733 26
LIABILITIES.	
Reserve fund	\$1,887,733 26
Death losses awaiting proofs	24,079 75
Surplus on policyholders' account	185,860 31
Total	\$2,047,673 32
Asset	\$2,148,773 37
Guarantee capital	370,000 00
Total	\$2,518,773 37
Total security	\$ 3,018,773 37
Policyholders' surplus	\$ 3,010,490 50
Total insurance in force	\$16,047,896 23

The foregoing reports and statements were received and adopted on the motion of the President David Dexter, seconded by Vice-President Lieut.-Col. Kerans. The following officers were re-elected, and at a subsequent meeting of the directors the following officers were re-elected: Mr. David Dexter, President and Managing Director; Lieut.-Col. Kerans and Rev. Dr. W. C. Mac-Donald, Vice-Presidents.

RUSSIAN PEASANTS WANT TO DIVIDE THE LAND.

Agrarian Troubles Increasing and Landlords Afraid to Live on Their Estates.

Taking Advantage of the Imperial Ukase to Petition the Emperor.

Recent Events Have Spread Panic Throughout the Russian Administration.

St. Petersburg, March 20, 2.38 pm.—The Zemstvos, Duomus, throughout Russia, are taking advantage of the imperial ukase issued simultaneously with the rescript conferring upon "individuals and institutions" the right freely to petition the Emperor through the committee of Ministers on all questions affecting the welfare of the empire, to demand representation upon the commission, which is elaborating the rescript. The importance of the ukase, which was largely overlooked at the time, has now become a powerful weapon in the hands of the Liberals, who contend that it necessarily carries with it a complete guarantee of freedom of speech and assembly, without which the right to petition on general questions would necessarily be a farce, and also freedom of the press for the discussion of such questions they now recognize in order to force a test of the Government's sincerity openly to organize clubs for the purpose of debating political questions.

The Moscow and St. Petersburg Zemstvos have already voted strong resolutions demanding representation on the rescript commission.

The strike situation seems to be everywhere improving. The Social Democrats here have advised the strikers who are without money, and confronted with starvation, to return to work and less than 1,000 workmen are now out. On the other hand the prospects of agrarian disturbances on a large scale are becoming decidedly more threatening, and are causing the deepest concern. Many landed proprietors are afraid to go back to their estates. The movement has not assumed a political phase, but is in the old form of a demand for a redistribution of the land. Agitators are shrewdly spreading the report that the Emperor has decreed such a division, telling the peasants that the proprietors do not want to submit and thus setting them against the landlords "in the emperor's name." The agitation has now spread to Simbirsk province, where they are making ready to begin a division of the land as soon as the summer melts. It is reported that the terrorists have formally notified the Russian Government that they will cease their activity for a month and await the result of the rescript. A story is current that a plot in the aristocratic page corps has been unearthed, incriminating the person of a student named Verhovsky, son of the general of that name and on another student. The authorities however, deny all knowledge of the plot.

A Peasant Revolt.

New York, March 20.—A Paris despatch to the Times says: The Russian Socialist Revolutionary party is organizing the peasant revolt in Russian and admits responsibility for the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius. It is represented here by M. Roubanovitch, a naturalized Frenchman, of Russian origin who also is editor of the Tribune Russe, the organ of his party in France. In an interview M. Roubanovitch said a revolution of the peasantry had now begun and would be promoted by the revolutionary party with the utmost vigor. Recent events had already spread panic and demoralization throughout the entire Russian official administration, and the collapse would soon be complete, for further acts of an even more startling nature were being prepared by the revolutionists.

Regarding the war, M. Roubanovitch said it would be brought to a stop mainly owing to the lack of provisions. The Russian soldiers at the front were well supplied with war material, but had little or nothing to eat.

This, said Mr. Roubanovitch, was due to the utter carelessness and corruption of the Russian general staff, and in consequence of it the demoralization of the Russian soldiers was complete.

It would, said M. Roubanovitch, still be possible for the Russian government to mobilize reinforcements and send them to the front, but the men arriving there would immediately be deserted by the spirit of mutiny and despair prevailing among the beaten and starving regiment which had preceded them.

Such, however, added M. Roubanovitch, was the Russian character, with which the government might manage to make the war drag on for years, were it not for the internal condition of the country.

AGED DETROIT MAN MEETS A HORRIBLE FATE.

Clothing Caught Fire and His Body Burned to a Crisp.

Detroit, March 20.—Pinned under a burning table, surrounded by angry flames that reached out from all sides and from the floor beneath him, aged Robert Carter slowly roasted to death, shortly before noon to-day, and his body now lies at his late residence, a blackened and unrecognizable human form.

The old man, who has been residing for several years with his niece and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. William Briggs, 371 Lonsing avenue, was usually left alone in the house during the day, the husband and wife being absent at their occupations. At noon a 12-year-old daughter of Mrs. Briggs would come home from school and prepare dinner for herself and Mr. Carter.

It had been the custom of the old man to have the kitchen fire lighted and everything in readiness for the preparation of the noonday meal, and he was employed at this duty when, it seems, his clothing caught fire from the coal stove, the lid of which was found removed. Being helpless from age and injuries received earlier in life, Mr. Carter was soon overcome by the flames. In a vain endeavor to reach the door he fell on the kitchen table, which soon became ignited.

In the meantime, William Longmate, another nephew of the dead man, found him in his terrible predicament. Longmate stopped in to pay his uncle a friendly call. As he walked toward the kitchen, he heard the crackling of flames, and entering he was appalled at the sight before him.

The burning form of his uncle lay under the table, which was all ablaze. Underneath the old man was a bed of fire, and on all sides of him tongues of flame shot out. He was already dead. The clothing had been burned almost entirely from his body, and in places the flesh was burned to a crisp. The features of the old man were so blackened and distorted as to be wholly unrecognizable.

The flames, which by this time were shooting through the windows of the kitchen and reaching out toward the front part of the house, were making rapid progress when the fire department arrived, but they were soon extinguished.

extend it to the family business of Father John? Anyone that would try to prove this merger illegal would have a sorry countenance after he had finished. If the elder child should get into trouble, does anyone doubt but that father and children all would come to his assistance? And does anyone think but that if the father or any of the other children needed any assistance the elder child would hesitate an instant? No. If not brothers, then what? First, our God; second, our country; third, our King and President; and then our family, the English-speaking nations.

The visit was terminated this afternoon when the United States officers were again driven in vans across the border to Cape Vincent, where they entrained for Sackett's Harbor. After a hearty farewell and many protestations of warmest friendship, two vans started about 2 o'clock from the gates of Tete du Pont Barracks amid the resounding cheers of a large number of military men. As the vans drove through the bugle corps gave a farewell salute. The visitors gave shortly for the Philippines on service.

E. NO. 12, 1905.

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