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As a business proposition, it pays to trade at home, conditions being equal as to the value offered; but when you can get a better article at home on as good terms there is an added reason for patronizing the home institution.

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If you do, then why not drink the best? Beer is not a necessity, but a luxury, and if you must have a luxury of that kind, then get an article that is absolutely pure, and which is made at home by

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In order to make home happy, good meals are indispensible, but you cannot have good meals if the principal part-the beef-is poor. We are prepared to furnish the very choicest

FRESH AND SALTED MEATS as well as Poultry, Fish and Game in season. Fresh

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Toke Point and Shoalwater Bay Oysters,

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Express Companies.

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Depend Entirely on the Czar's Future Course.

Washington, Dec. 31.-Kogoro Takahira the Japanese minister said Vesterday to the Associated Press:

"You ask me if I think war is inevitable. I can only say that Japan is awaiting the arrival of the Russian reply to her last note. Japan will wait as long as the circumstances seem to justify, but no longer.

"We have been prompt in all of our and, in fact, in all the steps of our negotiations with Russia. In our last note we have stated the minimum prop cabucok. osition which we can submit to Russia. That country has the deciding vote as to whether there is to be war or seace in the far east. We have done ill we could."

Takahira expressed hope that war may be yet averted, but he regards the outlook as gloomy.

FRENCH ARE HOPEFUL.

Believe War Between China and Japan May Be Averted.

London, Dec. 31.-Lord Landsdown's diplomatic reception yesterday centered on the far eastern crisis. The Russian ambassador, Count Bencken-FREDERICKSEN. dorff, was unable to give any information regarding the tenor of the Russian reply to Japan. The foreign secretary 71 Bend Street, - - Astoria, Oregen adopted a slightly more hopeful tone to other ambassadors than has prevail-COURT ASTORIA, No. 8, Foresters of ed for the last few days. The Asso-America—Meets Wednesday even-gs at 7:30 at Odd Fellows' hall. due to the persistent belief of the due to the persistent belief of the French Foreign minister, M. Delcasse, that he will be able to prevail on Rus-

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, said he was aware the French for- Club by Director-General Goode. eign minister was making strenuous been crowned with success, but the Dr. T. L. Ball Japanese Minister Says War Will Japanese minister laid much stress on the dispatch from Paris announcing believe that war between Russia and Japan would break out.

Japan Buys Two Ships.

Rome, Dec. 31 .- The Tribuna says the contract for the sale to the Japan government of the warships Moreno and Rivadavia, now building at Genoa for the Argentine Republic, was signed Sunday last.

Offers For Batleships.

Santiago de Chile, Doc. 31,-The Chilenn government has received offers preparations, our counter-preparations, from the Japanese government for the purchase of two Chilean warships, the Captain Pratt and the cruiser Cha-

### **Get Pointers** From 1905 Fair

Japan Commissioners Are Guided Over Site of Portland Exposition by Officers.

Accompanied by Director-General Joode, First Vice-President Fleisconer and Engineer Huber, of the Lewis and Clark fair corporation, Hajime Ota, Japanese commissioner to the St. Louis exposition, is being shown over the site of the 1905 fair this aftermoon with other Japanese representatives.

yesterday morning, having reached Seattle from the orient last Monday, accompanied by three other Japanese ofsia to make such compromises as will ficials. The entire party leaves to-

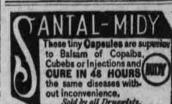
tained at luncheon at the Arlington

The party consists of Hajime Ot; So for as Baron imperial representative of Japan; Jubei Ando, Y. S. Mahri and Michia Hattari Consul Iba was with them all day.

Mr. Ota came to Portland to exam ine the site for the Lewis and Clark that the French government did not fair, and also to secure data upon which he can make an official report first trip to Portland, though he has previously traveled through the United States when returning from Germany where he had been a student at Heidelberg. He has mastered English sufficiently to converse slowly, and can read and write easily. As one of the imperial commissioners, be will be it charge of all Japanese matters at St. Louis until the return of S. Tejlma. who is the chief commissioner, from Japan. When asked the object of his visit to Portland, he said:

"We came here to look into the 1905 fair and secure data upon which to file a report relative to Japan exhibiting. It is too early to say what the nature of that report will be. We will leave for St. Louis tonight and remain there until after the exposition closes. This is my first trip to Portland, but I have crossed the United States before. We have received word from St. Louis that work is going ahead there very nicely. Our plans regarding the building had to be changed, as it was found we would not have time enough to carry out the original idea,"

When asked as to his opinion regarding possible war between Japan and Russie, Mr. Ota said he had been at sen so long that he was not informed. and consequently could not express an opinion.



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