

# LOSS IS MILLIONS

## LARGE BUSINESS PORTION OF TORONTO DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Damage Placed at \$12,000,000 With \$8,360,000 Insurance—City Acts for Sufferers—All Public Buildings are Placed at Their Disposal—Erection of Temporary Structures Permitted.

Toronto, Ont., April 22.—The total loss by the fire which destroyed the wholesale district of Toronto last night will, according to the most conservative estimate, reach \$12,000,000, the total insurance \$8,360,000.

The area swept by the fire embraces 14 acres, and 9,000 to 10,000 persons are thrown out of employment. The work of tearing down the dangerous walls was continued until this afternoon.

The city council this afternoon placed all public buildings and the exhibition grounds at the disposal of the fire sufferers, amended the fire regulations to allow the erection of temporary structures, and appointed a committee to wait on the legislature and secure an act ordering all wires under ground.

The principal warehouses of the city were reduced to ashes and nearly 250 firms were put out of business. The area covered by the fire is three blocks in length and varies from half a block to two blocks in width. Every building on Bay street, from Melinda street southward to the waterfront, was wiped out and the fire spread on Wellington and Front streets, along the waterfront from this section and the Esplanade along the waterfront from this section with Bay street for a boundary for a few hundred feet to a whole block.

From the time the fire started on the north side of Wellington street, a short distance east of Bay street, in the E. & S. Currie manufacturing plant, till it burned itself out at daybreak, there was not a moment when a shift of the wind to the northward would not have resulted in the destruction of the greater part of the city.

At a meeting of the Toronto legislature tonight, the premier and the leader of the opposition expressed sympathy with the fire sufferers, and it was decided to place a sum of money in the supplementary estimates for the benefit of the firemen's fund.

It is probable that the prorogation of the legislature, will be indefinitely delayed because of the fire. The burning of the Warwick brothers and Rutter building delays the government printing for this year.

The total number of buildings destroyed is 122; the number of firms affected is 222.

## IRRIGATION WORKS FOR IDAHO.

### Government Decides to Take in the Payette Valley Project.

Washington, April 22.—The government has finally decided to take up the Payette irrigation project, in Idaho, which contemplates the reclamation of 140,000 acres of land in Boise and Payette valleys, by diverting the waters of Boise river. Examinations of this project have been under way for several years, and the department is now convinced the project is feasible and can be carried out at a reasonable cost.

During the coming summer, final surveys will be made for canals and other works, and it is expected that contracts for the construction can be prepared and let by the end of the season.

The board of consulting engineers will consist of H. N. Savage, J. H. Quinton and W. H. Sanders which will soon examine the Umatilla and Malheur irrigation projects in Eastern Oregon to determine which of the two is the better adapted for government construction. The report of this board is likely to lead to the formal adoption of one or the other of these projects.

## Blizzard Rages in St. Louis.

St. Louis, April 22.—A severe storm raged here today, at times assuming the proportions of a blizzard. The storm began with a sleet storm, followed by a fall of 20 degrees of temperature. Following there was a snowfall of five inches. Street traffic was impeded and trains were late. The snow prevented the games between the St. Louis and Chicago national league teams, and St. Louis and Cleveland American league teams, scheduled for today. Five to seven inches of snow fell within radius of 150 miles of St. Louis.

## Flew the British Flag.

Paris, April 22.—A dispatch to the Temps from St Petersburg says the Russian fleet, while making a reconnaissance just previous to the last attempt to blockade the entrance to the harbor at Port Arthur, sighted four ships off the Maio Tao islands flying the British flag. After the warships and the forts had sunk the vessels used by the Japanese, the Russians identified the sunken hulks as the same British ships previously seen off the islands.

## Trainrobbers Get \$50,000.

Tiflis, April 22.—A train on the Trans-Caucasian railway was held up between Novosenkai and Abasha by four armed men, who entered the mail car and, after binding the officials, escaped with registered letters and valuables worth \$50,000.

## HE WOULD QUIT

### Viceroy Alexieff Asks the Czar to Relieve Him.

St Petersburg, April 21.—Viceroy Alexieff has applied by telegraph to the emperor to be relieved of his position of viceroy of the Far East. It is expected that the request will be immediately granted. While no official announcement has yet been made, there is every reason to believe that the foregoing statement is correct. The immediate cause of the viceroy's application is reported to be the appointment of Vice Admiral Skrydloff, one of Admiral Alexieff's strongest enemies and sharpest critics, as successor to the late Vice Admiral Makaroff in command of the Russian navy in the Far East.

The relieving from command of Viceroy Alexieff would not surprise intelligent observers of the Far Eastern situation, who are familiar with the gradual change in the emperor's attitude toward the viceroy and M. Bezobrazoff, who represented the military advancing element, which was anxious that Russia should remain in Manchuria. It was these two men that the Anglo-Japanese entente first lost its friends. They believed Great Britain would not go to war and that Japan could not do so. To the indignation of Japan, they succeeded in turning the policy of the empire from carrying out the treaty for the entire evacuation of Manchuria, pending further demands on China.

## BIG LOSS BY FIRE.

### Over \$10,000,000 Worth of Property Destroyed at Toronto.

Toronto, Ont., April 21.—Fire swept through a section of Toronto's wholesale business district tonight, causing a loss which will probably reach \$10,000,000. The fire started in a factory in Wellington street about 9 o'clock. In less than an hour the flames had spread from building to building on both sides of the street until the whole block was a mass of flames, and the fire was utterly beyond the control of the local department. Appeals were sent to every surrounding city where fire apparatus could be obtained asking for assistance. Montreal, London, Hamilton and Buffalo at once responded, but it will be hours before they can be of assistance.

It was believed at 11 o'clock that the fire was under control, but a sudden shift in the wind again fanned the flames into a roar and clouds of sparks and burning brands were carried down side streets until three entire blocks were doomed. The firemen were making a gallant fight amid the falling buildings and a mass of tangled wires, but their efforts at midnight seemed to be fruitless.

## FOR RAILROAD TO ALASKA.

### Victoria Endorses Project Which Will Take Trade From Seattle.

Victoria, B. C., April 20.—John Cain, of Port Angeles, Wash., addressed a crowded meeting here last night on the proposed scheme to build a railroad from the south to the north end of Vancouver island, connecting with the Port Angeles line by ferry across the Straits of Fuca and with Alaska at the north end by swift ferry steamers. He guaranteed to start building within 60 days after the subsidy is settled and complete it within two years.

The proposed line will cost \$9,000,000. The subsidy asked for is 5,000 acres per mile and \$10,000 per mile, 3 per cent inscribed stock of the province, redeemable in 40 years. The meeting endorsed the project and decided to appeal to the provincial government to take immediate action. The scheme is designed to capture the Alaska trade from the Puget sound cities and San Francisco.

## Favors Offensive Tactics.

Paris, April 21.—The Figaro today publishes an interview with Vice Admiral Skrydloff, who is now in St. Petersburg. The admiral is quoted as saying: "I believe in offensive tactics. It is necessary to push ahead and take the initiative instead of letting the enemy keep us in a state of unrest. It is essential to keep him in a state of unrest. It is necessary to invite a combat, and take chances. Any combatant who awaits his enemy is practically at his enemy's mercy. But aggressiveness does not mean imprudence."

## Pacific Squadron Sails From Panama.

Washington, April 21.—The flagship New York and the cruisers Marblehead and Bennington, of the Pacific squadron, commanded by Rear Admiral Glass, have started from Panama on their cruise to the Aleutian islands by the way of Honolulu. They first will proceed up the coast to Acapulco, whence they will sail to the Hawaiian islands, a distance of about 3,300 miles. The next run will be from Honolulu to Unalaska, in the Aleutian group, a distance of about 2,000 miles.

## Russia Only Protecting Herself.

St. Petersburg, April 21.—The foreign office explains that the notice served by Russia regarding newspaper correspondents employing wireless telegraphy is a natural measure of self protection against possible communication with the enemy. It would be possible from land or sea for correspondents using wireless telegraphy to communicate with the enemy. If an actual case should arise, however, it will be judged on its merits.

## Denies She Has a Submarine Boat.

London, April 21.—Captain Kabachi the new Japanese attaché, who has arrived in London from Japan, denies positively that there are any submarine vessels in the Japanese navy.

# GIVES RUSH ORDERS

## CZAR WANTS BATTLESHIPS TO JOIN FLEET JULY 15.

Naval Strength in Far East Demands Increase—Port Arthur May Be Cut Off—Superiority of Japanese on Water Gives Them Excellent Opportunity to Operate on Land.

Paris, April 20.—"The emperor, in receiving a visit from High Admiral Duke Alexieff today," says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris, "informed him that he desired the Baltic fleet to be ready to start by July 15. Orders accordingly have been sent to Cronstadt to hasten the preparation of its fleet for sailing on the date mentioned under Rear Admiral Rojestvenski, unless another admiral, of whom there has been much talk shall be selected."

"Vice Admiral Douhassoff declined the command of the Black sea fleet. It is probable that Admiral Chukin, director of the naval academy, will be appointed."

## MAY CUT OFF PORT ARTHUR.

### Superiority of Fleet Gives the Japanese an Excellent Opportunity.

St. Petersburg, April 20.—St. Petersburg is flooded with rumors from all directions regarding the plans of the Japanese, now that the Russian fleet at Port Arthur is unable longer to menace their troop transports.

The Associated Press in a dispatch from Port Arthur gave 20 as the number of Japanese transports reported as having been seen steaming in the direction of Yinkow, the seaport of Nin Chwang. Officials of the general staff, while having no information in this respect, would not be surprised if the number should turn out to be correct, or even that a larger number is steaming there.

Vice Admiral Togo's immense superiority enables him to hold the Russian squadron in Port Arthur and Japanese transports, therefore, can safely pass through the straits of Pechili and attempt to land at the head of the Liao Tung gulf, under the guns of the warships, as did General Shafter's army at Daiquiri, Cuba. Should this succeed, the Japanese will be in an excellent position to execute a flank movement on Liao Yang, or cut off Port Arthur.

## CONDITIONS IN PORTO RICO.

### Governor Hunt Reports America as Rapidly Gaining Trade.

New York, April 20.—Governor Hunt, of Porto Rico, arrived here today on the steamer Ponce from San Juan. He will remain in the United States about two weeks. Governor Hunt says he had not heard of his appointment as judge of the United States district of Montana and Wyoming, and would say nothing about his intention in regard to the appointment. He will spend considerable time in Washington in connection with official duties and eventually will return to Porto Rico at the end of two weeks. Speaking of conditions on the island Governor Hunt said:

"Just at present a strong effort is being made to promote a market in the United States for Porto Rico by preparing for an extensive exhibit at St. Louis. Coffee will be the feature of the island's exhibit because fruits and cotton will be also displayed. Americans are planting oranges quite extensively. The groves are growing well. Cotton bids fair to be very profitable. Coffee crop will be about normal this year for the first time since the hurricane, and if a slightly higher price can be had for the crop planters would be able to relieve their estates of part of their old mortgage debts and will be satisfied."

## America May Step In.

Santo Domingo, April 20.—United States Minister Powell informed the minister of foreign affairs today that in the event of any foreign power attempting to force a settlement of the claims of its citizens, thus excluding the claims of other nationalities, he would, in the name of his government, take immediate charge of all the custom houses of the government, place in each a military guard, and protect the same in the interest of the United States creditors, basing his action upon the recent decision of The Hague tribunal.

## Japanese Army Pays as It Goes.

Seoul, April 20.—A dispatch from Ping Yang, under yesterday's date, received here at 7 o'clock this morning, says the country in the wake of the Japanese army is resuming its normal condition. The majority of the inhabitants left their homes before the troops arrived, but are now returning. They have learned that the Japanese soldiers treat the people well, paying for their supplies, and are under strict discipline.

## Influx of Chinese.

Victoria, B. C., April 20.—One hundred and twelve Chinese are coming on the Canadian Pacific steamer Empress of China for this port, according to special cable dispatches to the headquarters of the company. As each Chinese has to pay \$500 head tax, the officials here are puzzled to know what it means. It is surmised that the Empress' crew of Chinese may be wanted ashore, but the officials have no reason for such a step.

## RUSSIA IN NEED OF MONEY.

### Issue of \$200,000,000 Five Per Cent Bonds Will Soon Be Made.

London, April 20.—Reports are again in circulation here of Russia's need to raise money. When the war broke out the gold held abroad by the Bank of Russia amounted to \$87,500,000. Of this amount \$50,000,000 has been expended and therefore, according to these reports, it would soon be necessary to have recourse to the gold held in the treasury. According to a telegram from Brussels printed this morning the outcome of the ways and means conference at St. Petersburg will be the issue of \$200,000,000 in 5 per cent treasury bonds in Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Vice Admiral Togo's report is accepted here as fully explaining the mystery of the destruction of the battleship Petropavlovsk and the newspapers pay warm tribute to the daring and skill displayed by the Japanese, contrasting these with the apparent lack of foresight and vigilance on the part of the Russians. War correspondents arriving at Ping Yang report that the roads are in terrible condition, but that the Japanese troops in marching display splendid endurance.

The Daily Mail's Ping Yang correspondent says that the food supplies are being pushed forth on a gigantic scale. All the preparations prove that the Japanese are in readiness to sustain a prolonged campaign. The correspondent describes the irresistible courage shown by the Japanese in the fighting at Chingju, charging recklessly up hill in the face of superior numbers.

The Daily Chronicle's correspondent at Shan Hai Kwan gives a report that a Japanese fleet of 26 vessels has been seen escorting 100 transports north of Port Arthur.

## WILL CAUSE DEBATE.

### Pension Bill Will Come Up Before the Senate This Week.

Washington, April 20.—There will be an effort to keep appropriation bills to the front all the time during the present week in the senate, and to this end the sundry civil bill will be taken up first. When it is disposed of the pension appropriation bill will be presented, and it is hoped that the bill will in turn be immediately followed by the general deficiency bill. The senate leaders are apprehensive of the effect of the consideration of various bills on the calendar, and are exercising their ingenuity to keep them in the background.

There are some features of the sundry civil bill which will cause discussion, and it is believed it will occupy two days. The pension bill usually goes through without debate, but it is probable there will be quite a little discussion on the pending bill. If opportunity is offered, Senator Hansbrough will endeavor to obtain consideration of the Indian agreement bills. Senator Fairbanks also stands ready to seize the first chance that offers to press his bill for a new executive building in Washington.

## BUG EATS UP WHARF PILING.

### Resembles Water Flea and Works at Edge of Water.

Hoquiam, Wash., April 20.—Commissioner E. Davis recently went to Westport and made an examination of the Westport wharf. He finds the entire piling of the wharf practically destroyed by a small bug resembling a water flea. The piling was put in but five years ago and now is ruined and will be replaced for safety.

Mr. Davis found the bug hard at work. He cuts off the piles at low water mark, so that 18-inch piling is found to be within a few inches of being entirely cut off. Cedar, which usually is proof against insects, has no terror for the bug, and he cuts this faster than fir.

If well driven piling is to last but five years, it means some method must be found to save them or an endless expense is certain. The insect is known to scientists as the limonolea, and is said to be very destructive to wood of this kind. An effort will be made to find a remedy for the pest.

## Outlook for Alaska Poor.

Washington, April 20.—The delegation of influential Alaskans which has been in Washington all winter working in behalf of legislation is still hopeful that something will be done, but its hopes are growing less strong each day. The delegation said today that the legislation sought was of the utmost importance and necessity to Alaska, and if nothing is done at this session it will probably be two years before the territory will be able to get anything into law owing to the fact that the next session of congress will be short.

## Russian Victory is Denied.

St. Petersburg, April 20.—The military general staff discredits the story that the Russians attacked 12,000 Japanese troops at the moment of landing at Yoganpho and drove them back to their ships. No affair of that sort has been reported by General Kourpatkin. It is reported that Viceroy Alexieff has received formal orders that the fleet must not leave Port Arthur before the arrival of the new commander, Admiral Skrydloff.

Japanese Ship Reported Sunk. St. Petersburg, April 20.—A dispatch from Port Arthur says several eye witnesses assert that a Japanese cruiser was lost outside Port Arthur during the last bombardment by striking one of its own floating mines.

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County Sheriff..... Vawter Crawford  
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County Assessor..... W. L. Bailing  
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County Coroner..... Dr. Kistner  
Stock Inspector..... S. C. Kirk

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Counsellman..... J. J. Roberts  
Geo. Noble  
E. W. Rhea  
Tom Quaid  
O. E. Farnsworth  
Recorder..... J. P. Williams  
Treasurer..... L. W. Briggs  
Marshal..... D. C. Gurdane

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