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AWAITS SEA BATTLE

QUESTION OF REFORM IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN ABEYANCE.

Paris Paper Says Firing Has Been Heard Off Kamranh Bay, but No Indication of General Naval Engagement—Scout Ships Involved.

St. Petersburg, April 24.—Vice Admiral Rojestvensky continues his policy of strategic silence and has answered the admiralty's message of last Saturday pointing out the position of the French government on neutrality regulations only by putting to sea, giving no intimation of his plans or destination. Russian naval circles would not be surprised if it should develop that the squadron had been already two days or more on the way northward when the instructions were cabled to him, and that the admiralty was aware of this when the message was sent asking the admiral to move outside the three-mile limit, if he happened to be in French territorial waters. A prominent naval officer here called the present stage of affairs "a game of naval hide and seek," and declared that the admiralty was justified in sending elusive dispatches, especially as there was reason to believe that one motive of Japan in pressing the question was the desire to learn the exact position of Rojestvensky's squadron.

Not only the future of the war in the far east, but the fate of the whole program of internal reform, to which Emperor Nicholas stands committed, appears to await the issue of the approaching sea battle between Rojestvensky and Togo. The government undoubtedly would be greatly strengthened, at least for the moment, by a victory decisive enough to change the war situation.

Practically the interior administration is being conducted through a police regime. Domiciliary visits and arrests by scores and hundreds are reported in every part of the empire and meetings of all classes of the people are forbidden and broken up by the police, under the direction of the local governors.

Should Rojestvensky be defeated, on the contrary, the liberals believe that the bureaucracy would capitulate and that peace and a constitution would come.

In the meantime the Easter holidays and May day are awaited with extreme anxiety, both by the authorities and the public. The social democrats and revolutionaries have planned demonstrations on an extensive scale, and undoubtedly many of them are armed with revolvers and bombs, which have been smuggled into the country to fight the police and troops in case they should attempt to interfere with the demonstrations.

There are many disquieting rumors of disaffection of troops and the names of regiments, even in the imperial guards, are given as having been won over to the "cause of liberty."

TOGO ASSEMBLES OFF FORMOSA.

Reported Movement of Togo Doubted. Important Dispatch.

Manila, April 24.—Three warships are now off Corregidor island. It is supposed here that they are Japanese vessels and that Rear Admiral Nishimi is hourly expecting the arrival of Vice Admiral Kamimura.

Vice Admiral Togo's main fleet will assemble south of Formosa on April 26. The Japanese consul here has received a long cipher message concerning Kamimura's squadron, which is expected today. The consul says the ships will not enter Manila harbor, but will cruise outside. There is great official activity here. The American admiral, the Japanese consul and the general in command have held a conference. The admiral will confer with Governor General Wright today.

Japanese Consul at Manila Receives

London, April 24.—Beyond the report that from Kamranh bay the Russian second Pacific squadron proceeded northward, there is no further news of any kind nor confirmation of the reported firing off Kamranh bay. There have been rumors recently that a portion of Rojestvensky's squadron was at Hainan, near the promontory of Lienchau. If these rumors are true it is supposed the whole squadron may reassemble there and endeavor in Chinese waters to continue coaling and other preparations. Little attention is paid here to reported movements of the Japanese warships. It is considered that Vice Admiral Togo is not likely to lift the veil of secrecy except for the express purpose of misleading.

Russian Fleet Quits Kamranh Bay.

Paris, April 24.—The minister of colonies officially confirms the report of the departure of the Russian squadron from Kamranh bay. The Russian admiral, previous to his departure, called on Admiral Jonquieres. The meeting of the two admirals was most cordial.

A dispatch from Saigon to the Temps reports that the Russian fleet, outside of Kamranh bay, opened a

heavy cannonading, probably upon Japanese scouts.

A private dispatch from Saigon states that Vice Admiral Rojestvensky is suffering from dysentery, but otherwise the officers and men of the fleet are in the best of health.

Captain O'Shea is Dead.
London, April 24.—Captain O'Shea, whose divorced wife became Mrs. Charles Stewart Parnell, died at Brighton.

IS SHORT \$1,450,000

MILWAUKEE BANK PRESIDENT IS A HEAVY DEFAULTER.

Says He Lost Money Speculating in Grain and Stocks—Run Begins on First National and Wisconsin Trust Company—Cashier Goll Missing.

Milwaukee, April 25.—Frank G. Bigelow, until yesterday president of the First National bank of Milwaukee, was arrested, charged with the embezzlement of over \$1,450,000 of the bank's funds. The arrest of Mr. Bigelow followed his confession to the board of directors of the bank that he was a defaulter to the extent of \$1,450,000. Following Mr. Bigelow's confession he was removed from the presidency of the bank and the facts in the case were laid before the federal authorities.

The complaint was sworn to by United States District Attorney Butterfield. It charges that Bigelow, as president of the First National bank, embezzled a sum exceeding \$1,000,000. A complaint and warrant identical with those in Bigelow's case were made out for Henry G. Goll, assistant cashier of the bank, but Goll could not be found. President Bigelow was taken before United States Court Commissioner Bloodgood. He waived hearing and was held to the federal grand jury under \$25,000 bond. Dr. Horace N. Brown and Arthur N. McGeoch certified as sureties and Mr. Bigelow was released. The next federal grand jury has not yet been summoned.

President Bigelow's Confession.

President Bigelow's confession was made at a special meeting of the board of directors, held Saturday evening and continued Sunday. In addressing his fellow directors, President Bigelow said he had a painful statement to make—a confession that he had misdirected the funds of the bank and that an examination of his books and a comparison of figures would show that he was indebted to the bank to the amount of over \$1,450,000. This money, he said, had been lost in speculation in wheat and stocks. Not a dollar of it could be recovered and the only sum he could offer toward recompensing the bank were personal securities valued at approximately \$300,000.

The confession of President Bigelow astounded the directors of the bank. Mr. Bigelow had been recognized as one of the foremost financiers of the northwest. He has been associated with the bank in various capacities for more than fifteen years and his business connections—trust companies, manufacturing concerns, real estate deals and other similar ventures—number scores. He was honored a year ago by election to the presidency of the American Bankers' association and by its members was looked upon as a leader in financial matters.

In making his statement to the directors of the bank Mr. Bigelow said he had become involved in speculation several months ago. This was on Wall street. More recently he had been a persistent bull in the wheat market and recent loss there had added to heavy reverses on Wall street. From small manipulations of the bank's funds he had extended the defalcations until his shortage had reached the present stage. He saw no opportunity or possibility of making up the amount and therefore confessed.

Run on the Bank.

Over \$1,000,000 was sent to Milwaukee by Chicago banks to reach the city before the news of the defalcation was made public. Several hundred thousand dollars in gold was transferred to the First National by local banks, so that institution was prepared for the run that was expected.

When the bank closed its doors more than 2,000 depositors were clamoring for their money. Nearly \$1,000,000 had been paid out in the course of two hours and but a small percentage of the customers demanding the closing of their accounts had been served. The throngs on East Water street were besieging the Wisconsin Trust company, the Savings bank department of the First National bank, and here the run assumed the greatest proportions. But while many depositors were seeking to withdraw their funds, other people who believe in the soundness of the bank were coming forward with deposits.

President Bigelow's defalcation amounts to about \$1,450,000, but he restored \$300,000. The directors have subscribed \$1,635,000 more. Bigelow himself is left a poor man by his speculations and the surrender of the securities to the bank. His total loss-

es in speculations of various kinds in two years are estimated by his friends at upward of \$3,000,000.

Teamsters' Strike Declared Off.

Chicago, April 25.—The teamsters called off their strike against Montgomery Ward & Co. Refusal of the garment workers, in aid of whom the teamsters went on strike, to be parties in a fight against only one firm when they had grievances against a number, led to a disruption of the committee managing the strike and the collapse of the struggle.

Federal Protection for Street Railway.

Chicago, April 25.—Judge Grosscup of the United States circuit court has placed the Chicago City Railway company under the protection of the federal court. He held that the city cannot force the issuance of transfer slips on the two short lines of this railway company operated by the Chicago Union Traction company, also that the ninety-year act is valid.

HEART DISEASE.

Don't Let the Idea That You Have It Scare You Into Sickness.

Comparatively few people know that it is rare to find a perfect heartbeat. What is termed "palpitation" is an irregularity in the beat. It is most commonly caused by some disturbance of the digestion; by undue indulgence in tea, coffee, tobacco or alcohol; by worry or by excitement. Many persons, detecting such an irregularity, think they have some serious disease of the heart that may end their life at any moment. This is a very grave mistake in a double sense—first, as to the fact itself, and, second, as to the influence on the health of such a morbid idea.

Again, there is a notion that heart disease is a destructive process; that the flesh is affected in much the same manner as when the skin is ulcerated or the lungs are consumptive. That is very seldom true. The most serious disorders of the heart are quite different in their nature.

When a man or woman is under the impression that he or she has heart disease there is one obvious duty—to visit a reliable doctor, have the heart examined and either have one's fears set at rest or be given such advice as will serve to remedy the condition.—Home Notes.

THE PARSON BIRD.

One of the Queer Feathered Inhabitants of New Zealand.

Among the feathered inhabitants of New Zealand there is a bird called the parson bird, or tui. It is about the size and shape of a blackbird, but has a pair of delicate white tufts at its throat and is a glossy dark green otherwise, which looks black in the sunlight. It can be taught to crow, to speak, to whistle tunes, and besides these tricks it has a repertory which is not often equaled by any other feathered songster. At vespers it has a note like the toll of a bell or the clear high note of an organ. It can mimic every bird in the bush to perfection; it will break off in the middle of an exquisite melody and indulge in a strange medley of sounds which are impossible to describe, but if you can imagine "the combination of a cough, a laugh, a sneeze, with the smashing of a pane of glass," it will be some approach to the idea.

The tui nests twice or thrice a year and has large families. Like the other birds of New Zealand, it seems to be unconscious of danger from man. It is a pity that the birds of this island are becoming so scarce, for they speak to us of a time when nature was harmless, when the snakes, tigers and falcons did not exist.

The Hen and Her Eggs.

The eggs of a scavenger hen are not fit to be eaten. My attention was called to this a number of years ago. A lady said she could not eat our eggs. She wanted sunflower eggs. I told her we had the best eggs in the country, but she said that an old German at home fed his chickens on sunflower seeds and that the eggs were remarkably sweet. Some of the eggs were sent for, and this was found to be true. Eggs certainly do partake of the nature of the food which has been eaten.—Feathered Life, London.

Wit to the Rescue.

William the Conqueror on landing in England is reported to have made a false step as his foot touched the sand and to have fallen on his face. A murmur arose, and voices cried, "Heaven preserve us, a bad sign!" but William, rising, said without confusion or hesitation: "What is the matter? What are you wondering at? I have seized this ground with my hands, and, by the brightness of God, so far as it extends it is mine, it is yours."

South Omaha Live Stock.

South Omaha, April 25.—Cattle—Receipts, 4,500; lower to 10c lower; native steers, \$4.30@4.50; cows and heifers, \$3.70@4.20; western steers, \$3.50@4.25; canners, \$1.50@3.40; stockers and feeders, \$3.00@3.10; calves, \$2.50@3.00; bulls, stags, etc., \$2.50@4.75. Hogs—Receipts, 12,000; closing 10c lower; heavy, \$5.25@5.35; mixed, \$5.25@5.30; light, \$5.25@5.35; pigs, \$4.75@5.25; bulk of sales, \$5.25@5.30. Sheep—Receipts, 6,000; steady; westerns, \$6.00@6.50; wethers, \$5.25@5.60; ewes, \$4.75@5.40; lambs, \$6.75@7.35.

The Chief

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