

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 22, 1904—TEN PAGES.

SINGLE COPY THREE CENTS.

APPROVE HILL PLAN

Despite Efforts of Stockholders Hold...

SPECIAL HELD YESTERDAY AT HOBOKEN

Northern Pacific and Great Northern Securities...

PROTEST AGAINST THE MEETINGS

Alleges Northern Securities Has No Right to Distribute...

POLLS CLOSED SHORTLY BEFORE NOON

Of 2,850,000 Shares of Northern Securities Stock a Total of 2,244,746 Vote in Favor of the Proposed Plan.

NEW YORK, April 21.—The stockholders of the Northern Securities company held a special meeting in Hoboken, N. J., today to vote on the proposed plan of reorganization...

CONFUSION OF CIVIC NAMES

Judge Slaughter Complains that the Public Mixes the Physical and Moral Leagues.

"The Civic Improvement League and the Civic Federation are two entirely distinct and separate concerns," said Judge Slaughter...

MAJORITY VOTE HILL PLAN

"By a notable distribution," said Vice President Clough, and Mr. Richards was satisfied.

Mr. Richards then voted his 100 shares for the proposed plan of distribution.

STOLE COAL TO KEEP WARM

Crime with Which Two Boys Stand Charged at Police Headquarters.

Sam Appoll of 1323 Pierce street and Frank Polito of Eleventh and Pierce streets, two boys 11 and 9 years old, respectively, caused a terrible commotion at the police station...

MERCHANTS AND SIGN ORDER

Agree to Oppose Any Discrimination in the Matter of Removal of Signs.

Last night at the Commercial club room a meeting of retail dealers and others interested was held to discuss the proposed ordinance dealing with sidewalk signs.

WILL NOT SPEAK OF CANDIDATES

LINCOLN, April 21.—William J. Bryan gave out an interview today in which he refused to say whether he would accept the presidential nomination...

BOTKIN PROSECUTION RESTS

Defense Moves for the Dismissal of the Second Charge of Murder.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—Robert A. Botkin, charged with the murder of a woman in the city, today had his second charge of murder dismissed...

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 21.—When shown the New York dispatches today relating to the vote of the shareholders on the distribution of the Northern Securities company assets, E. H. Harriman said: "What our next step will be is hard to say."

FRANK MANCUSA'S LATEST WOE

His Wife Has Gone with \$700 and Another and Younger Man.

"Frailty, thy name is woman," said Frank Mancusa in Italian when he returned home last night from work and found his house closed, his wife gone and \$700 of his missing.

Joe Constance, a lodger who has been rooming at his house for a year and a half, had also departed and, as Joe is good looking and 22 years of age while Mancusa's wife is 41 and her beauty is not what it was, the late husband greeted his teeth and said the police that he believed they had gone together.

Mancusa had to break in the doors to enter his house, and as he viewed the cheerless home and thought of the thirteen years of happy married life, of their first home in Italy, of the many tender recollections of the long ago and of the 700 dollars, he sat down by the empty stove and lifted his voice and wept.

Constance, said Mancusa, was an ideal lodger. He was so very kind to everyone with whom he came in contact. Was there a little extra work to be done, Constance was there with the goods. Was there a song to be sung or a little joke to make the happy home happier, Constance with the dark mustache and gleaming teeth was the first to add the needed happiness.

"E. A. to me," said Mancusa at the police station, "Mancusa, you my friend, I like you ver mooch, but 'e neva say 'ow mooch 'e like-a my wife, damn-a him."

Constance up to a day or two ago was working with the street railway company and was engaged to be married. He believes that he will try to get back again. The matter was first reported to the police by an interested neighbor, who said that the woman had gone missing, as he did not believe she had gone of her own accord. The neighbor looked at him critically and then said: "You think, do you? When will you be 21 years old?"

SERIOUS TROUBLE FEARED

British Commander Charges Nicaragua Commander with Piracy.

Retribution Will Bombard Bluefields if Captured Fishermen Are Not Released and Nicaragua is Alarmed.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, April 21.—The British cruiser Retribution, which, under instructions from the imperial government, sailed from Kingston April 11 for a Nicaraguan port in connection with the seizure of six turtle schooners and the arrest of their crews by Nicaraguan officials, returned to Port Royal from the Nicaraguan port today after ascertaining that the vessels and crews had been sent to Bluefields.

The captain of the Retribution accused the Nicaraguan commandant, under whose orders the schooners were seized, of piracy. There is considerable indignation among the Nicaraguan officials over the affair.

It was necessary for the Retribution to return to Port Royal to coal, but the cruiser will sail for Bluefields Saturday next to demand the release of the prisoners and the boats and also compensation for their illegal seizure and detention. It is rumored that should it be found necessary the Retribution will bombard the port of Bluefields.

Rifles for Bluefields. MANAGUA, Nicaragua, April 21.—The Nicaraguan steamer Ometepe, from Havana, has arrived in Nicaraguan waters with a consignment of small arms purchased in Cuba. It is rumored that an other conference will take place shortly at Amalapa in the Gulf of Fonseca between the presidents of Honduras, Nicaragua and San Salvador.

It was announced from Havana March 20 that the Nicaraguan government steamer Ometepe had sailed for Bluefields that day with 5,000 Remington rifles, purchased from a Spanish hardware house in Havana.

The five tortis shell fishing schooners captured recently while in Nicaraguan waters and taken to Bluefields had hoisted the British flag on one of the small islands off Cape Gracias-a-Dios, Nicaragua. The fishermen claim they were encouraged to do so by British colonial officers.

The British representative here, in an interview, is quoted as saying in regard to the announced arrival of a British war-ship at Bluefields that it is going there on a friendly visit to investigate certain events.

IRISH NATIONALISTS HOPEFUL

Redmond Tells Them that Home Rule Will Be Issue in England.

DUBLIN, April 21.—The annual nationalist convention at the Mansion house here today was well attended and excited much enthusiasm. John Redmond, who presided at the opening proceedings, said the unionist government and party were in a condemned cell, waiting for the execution of the British empire, which had been pronounced on them, and in all human probability it was reserved for the representatives of Ireland to give the final blow which would end their existence.

They had denied Ireland home rule, had broken their pledges and had introduced a budget which would impose an additional burden of \$2,500,000 yearly on Ireland. The question of home rule was again becoming a decided factor in English elections, and when the dissolution of Parliament came it would be found to be a deciding factor as to what government should rule the empire.

The convention passed a resolution in favor of home rule and expressing confidence in the Irish members of Parliament.

WILL KEEP UP THE STRIKE

Mitchell is Unable to Secure a Concurrence with the Colorado Coal Operators.

DENVER, April 21.—President John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers of America, who is attending the sessions of the executive councils of the American Federation of Labor in this city, has conferred here with W. R. Fairly, national representative, and William Howells and John Simpson, president and secretary respectively of district No. 15, concerning the miners' strike in southern Colorado, which they are managing. As the coal companies refuse to confer with the miners it is said that President Mitchell will recommend to the National board of organization, which meets in Indianapolis April 27, that the Colorado strike be continued indefinitely.

GET CARS TO MOVE COKE

Furnaces in Connellville District Are Nearly All Busy with Orders.

SCOTTSDALE, Pa., April 21.—The railroad companies seem to have at last succeeded in arranging for a plentiful supply of empty cars for the plants in the Connellville region and the surplus coke being rapidly removed from the yards. During the past week nearly 8,000 tons of "stocked" coke was loaded and shipped out, and it is estimated that nearly as much will be sent out this week.

There is an even 100 coke plants in the Connellville region, and of this number fifty-nine plants are running full, thirty-two part full and nine are idle. The production for the week is estimated at 227,491 tons, and shipments 19,586 cars.

ARMED SEARCH FOR PASSES

Detectives Employ Professional Drifter to Open Brokers' Safes at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, April 21.—Several detectives, armed with revolvers, today employed a professional safe drifter to forcibly open a safe in a railroad ticket broker's office. They sought to recover several passes alleged to have been stolen from the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad by Leonard Scherer, who was arrested last Tuesday. None of the passes were found, but other tickets were located which resulted in a replevin suit being filed by several railroad companies.

ROOSEVELT DECLINES HONOR

Uncle of the President Nominated as Elector on the Democratic Ticket.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Robert B. Roosevelt, an uncle of President Roosevelt, who was nominated as an elector by the democratic state convention at Albany last week, has declined to accept such nomination because of his relationship to the president.

ADVANCE OF THE RUSSIAN FORCES

Reported Koupoukai Has Ordered Infantry to Move.

PETERSBURG, April 21.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Petit Parisien says he has learned that General Koupoukai has ordered the advance of the Russian forces, and that a brigade of infantry, with 6,000 Cossacks, is within 100 miles of the banks of the Tumen river.

COUNTY COMMITTEE TODAY

Republicans Will Arrange for Primaries to Select Delegates to Represent Douglas County.

The republican county committee for Douglas county will meet at 2 o'clock this afternoon in Fraternity hall in the Bee building to prepare the preliminaries of the campaign. The call for the committee meeting issued by Chairman Cowell states the object to be to arrange for primaries to select delegates to represent Douglas county in state and congressional conventions. The call for the state convention has been out for three months, but the congressional call is still in abeyance, and Chairman Blackburn is said to have announced that he will not even call his congressional committee together for two or three weeks yet. Barry county, however, which with Douglas and Washington counties, make up this district, has already held its primaries and convention and selected its delegates to the congressional convention. Douglas county is entitled to eighty-seven delegates in the republican state convention, and the call for the convention is to be held in Lincoln, May 18, and the law requires twenty days' notice of a primary election, the republican primary in this county will have to be held some time between May 12 and May 15.

PLATFORM WITH ONE PLANK

Olney Men at Boston Secure Legislation to St. Louis—Convention Votes for the Unit Rule.

BOSTON, April 21.—By an overwhelming vote the Massachusetts democratic convention at Tremont temple today instructed four delegates-at-large and twenty delegates from the various congressional districts of the state to support Richard Olney of this city for presidential nomination at the democratic national convention in July.

Four delegates-at-large pledged to the support of Olney were elected and the Hearst supporters were defeated by a vote of about 600 to 200. A resolution offered by Representative John A. Coulthirst of Boston, endorsing Mr. Hearst, was voted down by a large majority.

The following were elected delegates-at-large: William A. Gaston of Boston, Patrick A. Collins of Boston, William L. Douglas of Brockton and John R. Thayer of Worcester.

George Fred Williams, the leader of that faction of the Massachusetts democracy supporting Hearst's candidacy, made a vigorous protest against the adoption of the unit rule, but the convention by a vote of nearly three to one refused to strike from the platform the clause calling for unanimous action with reference to presidential nominees, and after adopting the resolutions presented by the majority of its committee, on motion of Josiah Quincy, voted that the unit rule govern not only the support of Mr. Olney, but also all matters pertaining to the convention.

The platform adopted consisted of a single plank, an endorsement of Mr. Olney and instructions to the delegates to vote as a unit for him. The proceedings of the convention were marked at times by scenes of the greatest turbulence.

KINKAID BILL IS PASSED

Only Minor Amendments Made to Measure in the Senate.

THROUGH CONGRESS AT EXPRESS SPEED

Department of Justice Disapproves of the Bill to Hold a Term of the Federal Court at Grand Island.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, April 21.—(Special Telegram.)—Congressman Kinkaid's bill giving intending homesteaders the right to enter upon 40 acres of land in certain counties in the Fifth and Sixth congressional districts of Nebraska was reported to the senate today by Senator Dietrich with some slight modifications and passed. It is doubted if any bill has had any such rapid course through congress as the so-called Kinkaid bill.

Senator Dietrich, in calling up the bill, made a brief statement showing that some 3,000,000 acres of land in the territory outlined in the bill was subject to the provisions of the measure, that under existing law it was wholly impracticable to enter this land under the present homestead laws for the reason that 150 acres were inadequate to support a family, but that if 60 acres were permitted to be entered it might be possible to support a family on this number of acres through cattle raising and dairying.

Senator Dietrich explained the bill was only applicable to Nebraska and applied to the great semi-arid region of his state. The senator's explanation of the bill was clear, short and direct to the point. He was asked whether it changed existing homestead laws and stated that it did not except in the section outlined in the bill.

Judge Kinkaid, when seen later, stated the amendments made in the senate were entirely satisfactory to him and that he would move to concur in them when the bill came to the house tomorrow.

Senator Dietrich this morning, in view of the action yesterday by the public lands committee, began a systematic canvass of the committee, and when the senate consented he was ready to report the bill with the minor amendments suggested. His handling of the bill was exceedingly diplomatic and its passage is due to his efforts in meeting the objections and at the same time retaining the vital features of the Kinkaid bill, which is thought will largely increase the population of the Sixth district and at the same time be of incalculable benefit to the business interests of Omaha and Lincoln.

OBJECTS TO MOVING COURT

Representative Morris' bill to provide for the removal of the federal court at Grand Island, Neb., which passed the house recently, has been vetoed by the Department of Justice. A communication from the department was received this afternoon by the senate committee on judiciary, which has the bill under consideration, in which the objections are set forth. It is argued that the holding of court at Grand Island is unnecessary and although the bill does not contemplate any additional expense, it is held that it would be unwise to have sessions held there in addition to the places already provided for.

ROOSEVELT BILL AT WHITE HOUSE

The Roosevelt bill, which reached the White House today, has been sent to the Interior department for report. While it is known that Commissioner Jones is opposed to the measure, with probably some others, there is no reason to doubt that President Roosevelt will sign the measure after he receives the report from Secretary of the Interior.

While the report may be in process of incubation for several days, the South Dakota delegation believes the executive signature will be attached to the measure, and this may come tomorrow.

LEAD IS WITHDRAWN

The registrar and receiver of the land office at Sundance, Wyo., were today instructed to withdraw from all forms of townships in the counties of Cheyenne and 83. This withdrawal is made for irrigation purposes.

F. P. Mahoney of Omaha, E. B. Andrews of Lincoln and M. T. Zellers of Hooper, Neb., are at the St. James.

POSTAL MATTERS

Rural carriers appointed: Nebraska—Burr, regular; Magnus Thompson, substitute; George H. Thompson, Falls City, regular; Porter Handolph, substitute; Melvin Randolph, Syracuse, regular; Ansel V. McConnell, substitute; Isaac T. McConnell, South Dakota—Aberdeen, regular; Samuel G. Gooding, substitute; Maude E. Gooding, Nebraska rural routes ordered established: May 16: Burchard, Pawnee county, one additional; area covered, 36 square miles; population, 610. Ord, Valley county, two routes; area, 72 square miles; population, 1,065. Riverton, Franklin county, one route; area, 44 square miles; population, 540.

Nebraska postmasters appointed: Archer, Merrick county, Guy F. Eckles, vice A. R. Tullington, resigned; Brunswick, Antelope county, Mrs. Martin Lybolt, vice D. C. Weaver, resigned; Foster, Pierce county, Jesse I. Long, vice L. P. Cox, removed.

NOMINATIONS OF POSTMASTERS

The president today sent to the senate the following nominations of postmasters: Gary Bradford, Wellman, Ia.; W. H. Smith, Colby, Kan.; Jessie W. Phillips, Table Rock, Neb.; James H. Overman, Stella, Neb.; Joseph Kubler, Custer, S. D.

ELECT REGENTS AND VICE REGENTS

Daughters of the American Revolution Name State Officers.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Most of today's session of the national society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was devoted to reports from the state organizations. The state delegations have chosen regents and vice regents, including the following: Colorado—Mrs. John Campbell, Mrs. O. W. Malby, Iowa—Mrs. Maria Purdy Peck, Mrs. George Ogilvie, Kansas—Mrs. W. A. Stanley, Mrs. Eugene F. Ware, Missouri—Mrs. Wallace Delaford, Mrs. W. B. Bacon, Nebraska—Mrs. Abraham Allee, Mrs. Jasper Lagrand, Kansas, Mrs. J. W. Lagrand, Nebraska—Mrs. Sarah L. Lounsbury, Wyoming—Mrs. F. W. Mondell, Mrs. H. B. Patten.

LIMIT TO HIGH ARCHITECTURE

Toronto Will Allow No Buildings of Over Four Stories Unless Fireproof.

TORONTO, Ont., April 21.—The total sum of Toronto's losses in Tuesday's fire increases rather than decreases. The loss tonight is placed at \$2,600,000, with an insurance of \$2,600,000. The city architect, it is said, will recommend that no building higher than four stories shall be constructed unless absolutely fireproof, and that no building of any kind shall be erected to a great height, thus saving the lives of the people.

NEBRASKA WEATHER FORECAST

Showers Friday; Saturday, fair in west, showers in east portion.

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, Forecast. Rows include 5 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 m.

RUMORS OF LAND ENGAGEMENT

No Details Are Given and the Result of the Battle is Unknown.

(Copyright, by New York Herald Co., 1904.) SOUL, April 21.—(New York Herald Cablegram—Special Telegram to The Bee.)—Strong rumors are current here of a land engagement yesterday near the mouth of the Yalu. The result is unknown. Russian scouts reached Puk Ching, 100 miles north of Wonsou, evidently with the idea of making a demonstration against the latter place, hoping to draw the Japanese force in that direction, but a superior Japanese force met the Russians and caused them to retire.

Both armies are using the same tactics in the eastern as on the western Korean coast. Japanese soldiers here say they believe Port Arthur has fallen, but no official report has been received.

Only sixty Russian cavalry reached Song Ching. The appearance of the Russians in that region is of no consequence to the Japanese, who seem unconcerned to ignore the northeastern mountainous districts.

The Russian cavalry, after burning Japanese houses at Song Ching, occupying the Korean telegraph office and causing trouble among the natives by their demands for provisions, proceeded to Puk Ching, about sixty-five miles to the south.

ANALYZES MILITARY SITUATION

French Military Man Points Out Responsibility of Moving.

(Copyright by New York Herald Co., 1904.) PARIS, April 21.—(New York Herald Cablegram—Special Telegram to The Bee.)—The Herald's European edition publishes today a report from a military expert, a celebrated general of the French army. He writes: "The armies seem at the present moment to be in a state of expectancy. One feels either part how great a responsibility will be incurred by the military expert, that army which marches before the other. Advanced posts are stationed in the islands of Yalu and only a few miles from each other, and frequent movements are made on the part of the Japanese, who are concentrating at a little distance from the river, while the Russians, supported in the rear by imposing forces, are watching their bank carefully and their scouts are signaling that the Japanese are concentrating at a little distance from the coast between Tong Keou and Te Tung Kou."

"Generally speaking, on the Yalu it may be noticed that the Cossacks toward the east always remain in a threatening attitude for the Japanese. It is reported from Wou Son that this cavalry, supported by some infantry, has established itself at Pong Cheng. It can advance rapidly from this point by Ping Fong, confining to the Young King, and from the Yek Tchong and thence over itself by a bold raid either toward Anju or toward Ping Yang.

"Everything depends on the importance of this body of troops, but is rather probable it is only a force to be taken into account for the moment as it will operate at so great a distance from its base.

"As for the troops of disembarkation, it is to be remarked that every day they are signalled on various coasts. Some times it is seven miles to the north of Dally that the Japanese have succeeded in landings; at others it is a large flotilla of transports escorted by the ships of war, which has directed itself towards the gulf of Liao Tung. This news it is difficult to master, but as the sea is now free for Admiral Kuroki, it is more and more probable that before long an important demonstration will be made on land by the Japanese army, either on the peninsula of Kwang Tung or in the gulf of Liao Tung, unless General Kousonki has given up crossing the Yalu river and searching directly upon Liao Yang and Mukden, which seems little reconcilable with the present excessive excitement of public opinion in Japan."

SEVERE RULE AS TO PILOTS

Consuls Protest Against Treating All as Russians.

NEW CHIWANG, April 21.—An order issued by the Russian military authorities through the commissioner of customs here, notifying the pilots of New Chwang that any pilot who gives assistance to any Japanese ship in the waters leading to New Chwang would be held responsible for the consequences, has been made a subject of inquiry of the consulates by three of the foreign consuls with regard to the exact meaning of the words "to the full extent of martial law."

To these inquiries the Russian authorities have replied that the Russian ships in the waters mentioned would be held responsible for the acts only as belligerents and cannot be regarded as Russian subjects.

CHINA IS A CENTER OF INTEREST

Rumor that the Minister to Berlin Had Been Recalled.

(Copyright by New York Herald Co., 1904.) ST. PETERSBURG, April 21.—(New York Herald Cablegram—Special Telegram to The Bee.)—China's attitude is becoming a matter of particular interest. The council of ministers has been called twice within the past few days, supposedly in connection with this matter, the seriousness of which is fully realized.

There was a rumor today which ran through the city that the Chinese minister had been recalled, showing the state of public sentiment, that the report was generally believed. I called at the Chinese legation, but nothing was known there of any possible departure beyond the usual one of the time of the year for a country villa.

The German ships recently bought are being completely dismantled of all their fittings so as to be turned into coalers.

JAPANESE ANXIOUS TO ENLIST

TOKYO, April 21.—A. S. M.—The War office is flooded with thousands of applications from men of every age and every condition of life for permission to go to the front. The applications come from the exposed soldiers and boys to enlist in the

FORTRESS IS DOOMED

Events Culminating Around Port Arthur Suggest the Approach of the End.

JAPANESE OFFICERS TO BE PUT TO DEATH

When Sentenced Prisoners Plead For Life, but Prayer is Denied.

AMERICANS ARE NOT SAFE IN MANCHURIA

Hostility of Russians Very Pronounced and Men Suddenly Disappear

REPORT THAT ONE ENGLISHMAN HANGS

British Subject Arrested at Port Arthur on Suspicion of Being a Spy and Put to Death.

LONDON, April 21.—The Tokio correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that Port Arthur undoubtedly is effectually blockaded and that events are culminating around the doomed fortress.

Sentence Offered to Hang. HARBIN, Manchuria, April 21.—The two officers of the Japanese general staff, a colonel and a captain, who were arrested by the allied guard sixteen miles from this place on April 16, were found guilty by a court-martial and sentenced to be hanged.

The officers listened quietly to the sentence of the court, but subsequently asked that their lives be spared. General Koupoukai confirmed the findings of the court, but, taking into consideration the fact that the accused were soldiers, he ordered that they should be shot instead of being hanged.

The sitting of the court-martial attracted a large attendance, including many women. The sentence has not yet been executed.

AMERICANS UNDER A BAN

BERLIN, April 21.—A correspondent of the Frankfurt Zeitung, writing from Harbin, Manchuria, under date of March 16, says that great bitterness has been aroused throughout Manchuria against Americans and British, because it is believed American and British vessels took part in the bombardment of Port Arthur, after several other, including Davidson, a Canadian, have disappeared. The authorities are looking for them.

It is reported that an Englishman was arrested in Port Arthur as a spy and was taken to Mukden and hanged where in Manchuria. One Radia, an American, after several others, including Davidson, a Canadian, have disappeared. The authorities are looking for them.

The feeling is so strong that Americans and British are being treated as spies in Manchuria. One Radia, an American, after several others, including Davidson, a Canadian, have disappeared. The authorities are looking for them.

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"The plying of the so-called 'flower boats' on the Liao river, mostly under the American flag and carrying American goods, has been prohibited.

Southern Manchuria has been secured for several months for supplies of flour destined to Mukden and Harbin, which is reported to be provisioned for two years.

AMERICAN MARINES TO LEAVE COREA

SEOUL, April 21.—Lieutenant Douglas C. McDougal, United States marine corps, with seventy marines from the American legion guard, has been ordered to leave Seoul and sail on the cruiser Raleigh for Manila. The marines heretofore have crowded the small house in the legation compound and the Bowditch office building. The impossibility of properly housing the men during the hot season, the quiet condition of Seoul and the presence of a sufficient Japanese garrison to quell any disturbance are responsible for the reduction in the strength of the legion guard.

YIN KOW UNDER MARTIAL LAW

NEW CHIWANG, April 21.—Viceroy Alexieff has issued an important order declaring the Yin Kow railroad station and the native village adjoining it to be within the region under martial law. The station is opposite New Chwang and it is a terminus of the Peking-Shan Hai Kwan railroad and telegraph system. The order also establishes a censorship over all telegrams, the scrutiny of all passengers and the inspection of their baggage. It will go into effect tomorrow.

MAY PREY ON JAPANESE COMMERCE

Russians Said to Be Fitting Out Ships for Purpose.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 21.—The admiralty, it is announced, intends to fit out two ships purchased from Germany which formerly were in the transatlantic service, together with a number of ships of the volunteer fleet, with rapid fire guns and to send them to the Pacific to prey on Japanese commerce. The admiralty believes that by this means it can prevent the resumption of operations by the Japanese commercial fleet and strike a hard blow against Japan's hope of maintaining its operations with Admiral Skrydloff will stop at Liao Yang on his way to Port Arthur to confer with General Koupoukai. The admiral and the general are warm personal friends and both are completely independent of the viceroy. On account of the bad relations between Skrydloff and Alexieff pressure is being brought to bear to prevent the viceroy's immediate return to the Russian capital.

All information in possession of the general staff indicates that the Japanese are preparing to make a landing near Takushan. The lights of Japanese ships have been observed there for several nights and it is believed that the prosecution of the war has only been prevented by the bad weather, which has prevented the assembling of junks and other small craft on which the troops must be carried across the stretch of shallow water which extends several miles from the shore.

It is believed that the Japanese will experience great difficulty in disembarking if their landing is resisted. A prominent naval attaché who is familiar with this coast says a battalion with rapid fire and machine guns could keep off an army corps, and the warships would have to be too far out to effectively protect a landing.

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