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*They have a beautiful way of holding Presidential elections in Mexico. General Porfirio Diaz was re-elected the other day and the voters didn't know anything about it until it was all over.—Harrisburg, Va., News.*

*Twelve parts of the World's Fair Portfolios now ready at Star office.*

# Port Arthur Is a Gambling Hell

THE RUSSIANS' PASSION FOR STAKING MONEY ON CHANCES—OFFICERS AND PRIVATES AND EVEN THE WOUNDED PLAY FOR MONEY AND SUICIDE IS THE APPROVED COURSE WHEN DISHONOR COMES.

*A St. Petersburg correspondent, writing under date of June 16th, gives the following remarkable account of life among the officers at Port Arthur: Imaginative war correspondents—outside of the fortress, of course—describe Port Arthur as an "Inferno of Flame." The less imaginative, but better informed correspondent inside is content to picture it as a gambling hell. The Czar's defenders—whether epauletted officers or pipe-clayed soldiers—are the most desperate gamblers in the world. A month before the outbreak of the war, Nicholas II cashiered from the Ismailovsky guards a captain and two ensigns for a gambling transaction in which the property, and some say the persons, of the former's pretty wife were concerned. The captain committed suicide. Incidents like these are common, and are at most a nine days' wonder. Even a perpetual gamble with death in the face of an unrelenting foe does not check but only intensifies the inherent gambling instincts of the Slav.*

*Many of the private letters from Port Arthur give details of this colossal gambling. A promising young engineer officer met his death through cards on April 27. "You have heard," reads a brother officer's letter, published in a Kharkoff newspaper, "of poor S.'s death. It was not his fault, but that old harpy Kh.'s, and some of us think that Kh. played very fishily. At any rate S. was drunk, and though he put his father's name to the check it was in his own writing. Altogether he lost 47,000 roubles. He shot himself with a revolver." "Vint" is Port Arthur's "bridge" a bridge which often gives way beneath the feet of luckless players, and precipitates them into the abyss. It is played day and night with a grim determination which nothing shakes.*

*According to the Sibirski Viestnik, even the wounded play.*

*"Two wounded officers," reads a letter published in that paper, "while lying on the fort awaiting surgical aid, tried to forget their agony in a desperate gamble, cutting a bloodstained pack of cards for a hundred roubles a time." A Riga doctor named Friedlander, suppressing names, sent the following extract from a Port Arthur letter to the local newspapers: "The mania for gaming has led some of our officers to forget their position as gentlemen and servants of the Czar. P., having won everyone else's money, began to play with a Chinese contractor, who made a big fortune by doing our men. Last night's play ended in P.'s suicide, and, indeed, the honor of the regiment demanded it.*

*"The Chinaman won from beginning to end, and P. lost all his previous winnings, and finally staked Ludmila V—whom he had brought from Irkutsk—against two thousand roubles. The Chinaman won, and, of course, our pretty Ludmila would have nothing to do with him. There was a frightful scene, I am told, at P.'s quarters. Anyway, he was found next morning sitting before his glass with a razor in his hand and a gaping wound in his throat." In April a great sweepstakes was organized by some cavalry officers. Tickets dated from April 15th to December 31st were issued at 100 roubles each, the winner to be the holder of the ticket bearing the date of the first Japanese landing on the Liao-tung Peninsula. Apparently the landing was not expected before June, as a letter in the Kievlianin mentions the fact that the June and July tickets doubled in value. Owing to the lack of currency in the fortress these tickets passed as credit notes, and were quoted day by day, like Stock Exchange securities. "An ingenious Chinaman," concludes the letter, "bought up some fifty September to December tickets at about a rouble each, altered the dates to June and July and succeeded in getting 40 into circulation."*

# RUSSIAN STORY OF BATTLE

THE ROSSIA, GROMOBOI AND NOVIK OUTCLASSED IN THE PROPORTION OF 190 TO 70 IN FIGHTING STRENGTH—DETAILS OF THE ENGAGEMENT WHICH THE JAPANESE FORCED THE RUSSIANS TO FIGHT.

*The following additional details of the fight off Tsu Island, between the Russian Vladivostok squadron and Vice Admiral Kamimura's vessels, August 14, are supplied by the Russian correspondent of the Associated Press. He says:*

*"The cruisers Rossia and Gromoboi, two of the survivors of our brave squadron, are again in this harbor after the most desperate battle of modern naval warfare. Half of the officers and forty per cent of the men were killed or wounded in the unequal fight. The gallant Rurik was lost and the Rossia and Gromoboi became the helpless cripples, but there is grim satisfaction in knowing that they carried out their orders, fighting so as to weaken Admiral Kamimura's squadron with the object of allowing the Port Arthur squadron to force the passage of the Korean straits, which had hitherto been impassable."*

*"Rear Admiral Jessen hoisted his flag on the Rossia at 6 o'clock on the morning of August 11, and the squadron steamed out in accordance with previous instructions to meet Rear Admiral Withoft (commander of the Port Arthur squadron). The purpose of the Vladivostok squadron was to draw off Admiral Kamimura so as to clear the passage of the Korean gulf for Admiral Withoft, whose vessels, it was presumed, had been damaged and weakened in their fight with Vice Admiral Togo.*

*"The Japanese fleet was first sighted at 4:35 on the morning of August 14, in latitude 38.81 and longitude 103. It was barely daylight when the Russians observed by the smoke on the horizon, four Japanese vessels steaming in column to the northwest. These vessels came up rapidly and proved to be four first-class cruisers, of which the Russians identified the Iwate and the Adsuma.*

*"If possible we would have gotten them dead to the north and then run to the southward to join forces with the Port Arthur squadron, avoiding a fight at that particular time, but the superior speed of the enemy prevented this. They edged us toward the Japanese shore, and, seeing that a battle was inevitable and that under any circumstances this was part of our mission, we turned in the hope of coming in close quarters and damaging the enemy as much as possible, but the Japanese ships were never speedier and they chose to make it a long range fight. They had superior artillery and were better protected, especially with regard to their steering gear.*

*"The respective strength of the squadrons, according to the standard of naval coefficiency, was as 70 Russians to 190 Japanese.*

*"The battle commenced at 5 o'clock in the morning at a range of six miles. The Russians were steaming so as to force the Japanese line when a shell struck the stern of the Rurik and irreparably damaged her rudder. She hoisted a signal to this effect and Admiral Jessen replied by signalling 'steer by propellers,' but the damage included one of the screws, and the Rurik was forced to lie to while the Japanese drew in and concentrated their fire on the crippled cruiser, allowing Admiral Jessen to proceed.*

*"Admiral Jessen, on the Rossia, seeing the Rurik in difficulty, swung around, followed by the Gromoboi, and threw his better armored vessel between the Japanese and the Rurik, taking the full force of the Japanese big gun fire, while the Rurik's crew worked desperately but hopelessly to repair the steering gear.*

*"In the meantime wireless messages were humming in the air calling up Japanese reinforcements. Three smoke plumes appeared to the westward and they proved to be from two second-class Japanese cruisers, one of which proved to be the Tokiwa and the third a vessel of the Nitaka type. These vessels maneuvered so as to get the range of the crippled Russian cruiser, putting her between them and the first of her heavier escorts.*

*"The battle continued until 8 o'clock in the morning. The Rossia suffered heavily. Her guns were largely unprotected and her crews were killed at*

(Continued on page seven.)

No Man Wants to Toss Recklessly

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Assignee's Notice.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against Z. Yoshida, of Honolulu, must file the same with the undersigned, at Room 12, Campbell Block, Honolulu, on or before September 15th, 1904, or the same will be forever barred.

K. ODO,
Assignee Z. Yoshida.

Dated Honolulu, July 15th, 1904.

# KEEPING OUT FRUIT PESTS

FORESTRY BOARD MEETS AND TRANSACTS IMPORTANT BUSINESS—HILO FOREST REPORT ENDORSED.

A meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry was held yesterday afternoon in the Library of the Experiment station, those present being Commissioners Giffard, Brown, Dole and Holloway. Entomologist Craw was in attendance.

The ratification of the work done at the previous meeting in passing resolutions regarding the proposed forest reserve in Hilo district was the first order of business. The proposition is for the government to reserve all the land for forestry purposes as nearly as possible above the 1750 foot contour line. One hundred feet on either side of all streams and about all springs will be reserved. The resolutions direct the Superintendent of Forestry to procure a map of the proposed reserve for presentation to the governor for it is necessary to obtain his approval of the action. The Board does not object to homesteads below the proposed 1750 foot elevation line. The board unanimously voted to ratify the resolutions and a surveyor is to begin at once to prepare a map from data at hand showing the approximate position of the proposed line.

It was announced by Chairman Giffard that reports on the fruits of the territory would be published in the form of bulletins shortly. John Watt was appointed assistant foreman of the Puna district in place of McStocker, resigned.

Entomologist Craw reported that the fumigating boxes at the Oceanic and Hackfeld docks were nearly completed. Fifteen boxes of peaches arriving on the Ventura of August 24th were found to be infested with the peach tree borer and were destroyed. On the Alameda arriving on the 2nd of September were two lots of lemons infested with scale. Although this scale is already in the Territory the importation of such inferior, cull fruit as these lots were is to be discouraged and both lots were destroyed. On the Korea, were several cases of Japanese pears which were infested with the Chinese fruit worm, a very dangerous pest which has not appeared in the United States but has been seen at Victoria, B. C. The report was accepted and filed.

It was announced that a cable had been seen at Victoria, B. C. The report, now with the Department of Agriculture at Washington, accepting the position of assistant to Craw in place of Terry and Kirkaldy, who have resigned to go into the employ of the Planters' Association.

The question of declaring a general embargo on all fruits other than those from the United States and Canada was discussed but was left for further discussion before action is taken.

Pennsylvania may get the credit of making Judge Parker's nomination possible, but she will continue to do her best toward making his election impossible.—Boston Herald.

Could Scarcely Walk.—Mr. G. S. Purton, a resident of Kyneton, Victoria, Australia, says: "Some time ago I was attacked with severe pains and stiffness in my legs, which affected me so that I could scarcely walk, when I was recommended to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm by our local chemist, Mr. Stredwick. I have used it once a day since, and have experienced wonderful relief. I am indeed grateful for the good it has done me and shall be happy to recommend Chamberlain's Pain Balm to anyone suffering from a similar complaint." For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

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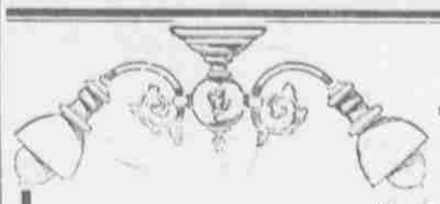

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