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JAPANS WANTS TO FIGHT.

Conflict, if Once Begun, Would Likely Continue for Years. England and France May Become Involved.

OUTLOOK GROWS VERY SERIOUS.

London, July 24.—The Daily Mails Toyko correspondent sends rather an alarming view of the situation in the East to his paper.

He says that Russia's retention of Manchuria, the increase of her fleet the dispatch of re-enforcements to Manchuria, the southward movement of the occupying army in Manchuria, and the defiant conduct on the Korean frontier alarmed the Japanese many of whom are convinced that it would be better to fight now than risk the eventual loss of Korea and the relegation of Japan to secondary place.

He says the Japanese are accumulating stores and negotiating the purchase of ships; that a squadron is off Vladivostok, to which port Russian vessels have been sent as a precaution, and that both fleets are ready for action at any moment.

RUSSIAN SPIRIT AGGRESSIVE

He says that a perusal of the Siberian press reveals the aggressive spirit of Russian military party; that the Russians believe they will lose prestige if they give way now, with the result that their far Eastern empire will be lost and Japanese influence will become predominant.

The appointment of Marquis Ito as president of the privy council, the correspondent says, is favorable to peace, but that Russia must retreat or there will be very great danger of war. He says the Japanese believe France and England will join in the expected conflict, which diplomatist, at Tokyo think might, if once begun continue for years, involving disastrous results to Japanese finance and the creation of a sort of Balkan difficulty in Korea. He adds that confidence is shown in the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

TROOPS AT PORT ARTHUR.

The Standard's Rientsin correspondent says that since the 15th of this month there has been an increase in the concentration of Russian forces at Port Arthur and elsewhere, many of whom were ostensibly emigrants, but being in reality soldiers. He adds that there is not the slightest evidence that Russia intends to withdraw or moderate her policy.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

TO COMMITTEEMEN OF BERTIE COUNTY.

Their Duties Defined and Explained by Superint'd't. R. W. Askew.

The law says that the County B'd. of Education, shall select as committeemen, three intelligent men of good business qualifications, who are known to be in favor of public education to serve in their respective districts for 2 years from date of their appointment. To this end our County Board has exercised with much concern its best judgment, in discharging this requirement of the law, and trusts that no mistakes have been made.

A committeeman's duty is defined and governed by law, and it is presumed that there will be a ready, constant and faithful compliance of the same on the part of each one.

Your first duty is to comply promptly to Sec. 18, organize and report the result to this office.

Sec. 19 require you to look well to the care and keeping of your school houses and property belonging thereto.

Sec. 20 should be carefully read and re-read; and every duty therein mentioned, well considered and due attention given. This defines the most important of all your duties. From it comes the census taking, the first Monday in Aug. being the day to distribute blanks for this purpose. We do hereby appoint that day as Committeeman's day, for the County in each year. We earnestly desire the presence of every committeeman in the County, that we may give you census blanks, new school law, together with all manner of instruction in our power to convey, along the line of your duty in order to unify and make one as far as possible, the entire public school work of the county. We must know our duties more and discharge them better than in the past, if possible.

In taking names, age and ability to read and write, of those over 12 years of age, we fear too much guess work has been done. Never permit one neighbor to report for another, as to these facts. To prevent this slackness, committeemen are now allowed pay for the work, which means that a strict personal attention will be expected, as to all facts to be known.

When your school opens, an accurate list of every child, the name, age and parent, should be furnished the teacher. We regret to say that this item has been neglected too much in the past. This section also defines the strict and positive duty of committeemen in the employment of teachers. More confusion, disagreements and unpleasantness among committeemen, patrons and teachers are caused by disregarding this clause of the law than almost any other section of the same. We

would have you bear in mind that no contract for the employment of any teacher should be made by any one member of your board without the presence of all. We expect you to look well to this matter that no harm be done the cause. You should hold your meetings as early as practicable and select your teacher from the applications on hand, or from others not applicants if you so desire. Notify the successful applicant of his or her selection that other applicants may look elsewhere for a school.

After your selection of a teacher has been made notify your County Superintendent of Public Schools of the name and salary of teacher, time to begin school, length of term, copy of teacher's contract, etc.

Please observe that the new law requires all teachers' contracts to be made in writing and copy sent to the Co. Supt. This must be done before a voucher for salary can be approved. Please don't embarrass us by neglect of this one item. Blanks for contracts will be furnished you. See page 62, new school law.

Section 21 is of importance.

Unless you keep a record of finances furnished your district you can not intelligently make orders, etc. Be sure and see that all expense accounts are itemized and sworn to before presented for approval.

The maximum price for teachers has been fixed by the County Board at \$25.00 for first grade and suggested at \$20.00 for second grade. Wherever, from grade or large school a larger salary seems necessary, the consent of the County Board, through your Superintendent, should be obtained.

Section 22 requires that all school sessions should be in one continuous term as far as practicable. A summer and winter term may be permissible where local conditions as to the character of crops, condition of roads, etc., may be such as to require it. Always, best however, to comply with the spirit of the law.

Section 23 requires a full and constant attendance on part of children remembering that of less than 1-5 of children belonging to any district, be in regular attendance the school shall be closed and funds belonging to such a district be given to others. This would represent the talent of the unprofitable servant. We should regret exceedingly to know that any district in this county should thus be afflicted because of failure to duty.

Section 13 requires County board to designate time for opening all schools. While the Board does not wish to be too presumptuous in that matter; yet it does suggest that all

single term schools begin from the first to the middle of November in each year and continue so long as funds may last.

Sec. 28 provides that any person who shall wilfully interrupt any public or private school &c., or injure any school building or deface any school furniture &c., shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not exceeding fifty dollars, or imprisoned not more than thirty days. This clause of the law should be held up prominently to the consideration of unruly or disturbing boys at school. It might deter them from unmanageable conduct, thereby aiding good order in controlling the school.

Your County Superintendent earnestly desires that this may be the most active educational year in all the history of Bertie county, and to this end he will expect a most hearty support and co-operation from every committeeman, teacher and patron, of the educational work of the same.

We shall expect a friendly and harmonious work among each board in the county, and should there at any time be found on these boards an opposition man, we trust he will be considerate enough to the cause, to at once resign his position and let those who can cooperate be put in his place; remember that, only where there is union is strength. We cannot, nor will not, have divisions in this work, if we know it, peace and harmony must prevail.

Our teachers also expect to have the moral and material support of their respective Boards of Committees otherwise their work will be failures. We shall also expect our committeemen to occasionally visit their schools. It encourages the teacher and gives stimulus to her work.

See that all necessary comforts are furnished your school-house. First make the house finished and warm, with good stoves, plenty of wood, axe water bucket, wash pan and towel. Indeed make it such as your own house should be. Thereby encouraging neatness, which is a vital part of childhood training.

Read carefully all notes by State Supt., in the school law. It is both instructive and profitable, as well as a reminder of duty.

Finally my friends, be at all times mindful of the opportunity for much good, which is committed to your hand. And may your influence, as a director of the educational interest of your community, be such, as will reflect, both honor and credit to your

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LAST RITES OVER POPE LEO XIII.

Cardinal Camerlingo Calls His Holiness' Name Thrice, Then Makes Official Announcement of His Death

CONCLAVE WILL OPEN AUGUST 1

Rome July, 21.—Official announcement of the death of Pope Leo XIII was made by Cardinal Oreglia, dean of the sacred college, this forenoon. For this ceremony the camerlingo the temporary head of the Catholic church, put off his official robes and garbed him self in violet. Then silver mallet in hand, he headed the procession of Cardinals to the death chamber.

Outside the noble guard kept solemn vigil. Within knelt the Cardinals and the Franciscan penitentiaries whose duty is to watch by the pontiff's pier until the casket is committed to its vault. The chamber had been transformed into a kind of mortuary chapel, with the altar at one end and in the center a crucifix, surrounded by six lighted candles.

POPE CALLED BY NAME. So life like was the Pope's appearance. Continued on another page

good name, as well as a lasting benefit upon the children of your school districts.

You will find me always ready and willing to respond to your every request, so far as in my power to comply. With best wishes for great success,

I am, Yours in the Work, R. W. ASKEW, Co. Supt.

Hair Splits. "I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for thirty years. It is elegant for a hair dressing and for keeping the hair from splitting at the ends."—J. A. Gruenfelder, Grantfork, Ill. Hair-splitting splits friendships. If the hair-splitting is done on your own head, it loses friends for you, for every hair of your head is a friend. Ayer's Hair Vigor in advance will prevent the splitting. If the splitting has begun, it will stop it. \$1.00 a bottle. All druggists. If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address, J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.