

# FIGHTING STRENGTH

The Military and Naval Resources of Japan and Russia.

## LIKE DAVID AND GOLIATH

Mikado's Forces Should Win at the Start, But Russia's Great Power Will Probably Be Successful in the End.

A mere statistical statement of the numbers of soldiers or ships which Japan and Russia can give no conception of the military strength of either nation. If it could Japan would be defeated by mere numbers before war was declared. Military resources consist of more than men or ships, it consist of funds with which to equip armies and navies and maintain them, it consists of food supplies, of means of transportation, and of discipline, enthusiasm and patriotism. It is in the latter that Japan excels.

The standing army of Russia on a peace footing numbers about 1,100,000

strength of Russia. Of means of transportation there is an abundance. Sufficient transports are at hand to put the entire army into Corea within a few days. In the matter of strictly military discipline there is none better among the armies of the world.

So much for army figures. The chance for Japanese success upon land lies not in figures, but in the enthusiasm and patriotism of her troops and her people. The Japanese people are animated by a patriotism which borders on fanaticism. They count it a privilege to make any sacrifice, no matter how great, for the nation. The Japanese soldier is a fatalist. He considers it not only a duty but an honor, the greatest honor that can come to him, to die fighting for the nation.

It is told that in the great ceremony in honor of those Japanese who had fallen in the fighting around Tientsin Gen. Fukushima made a speech to the troops who had participated in those battles in which he told them he felt it an honor to have commanded such men as those who were dead, but it was a still greater honor to have died for Japan. This one lesson is impressed upon the soldier from the day he joins the colors. It is made a part of his military education, and it is small wonder that it produces

has not a coaling station on the way, and to use the friendly French stations would be a violation of neutrality by the French which, under the terms of her treaty with Japan, would force England into active assistance of her ally. To meet this obvious difficulty, Russia has already strengthened her Siberian fleet, to some extent. She has there now four battleships, comparatively new, the Petropavlosk, Peresvet, Oslabya and Pobieda. They are all of about the same class, ranging from 11,000 to 12,000 tons. One carries four 12-inch rifles, and 12 six-inch quick-firers, the others carry four ten-inch rifles and 11 six-inch quick-firers, besides the secondary batteries. The four armored cruisers on the station are the Rurik and Dmitri Donskoi, both seen in American waters ten years ago, and the Admiral Nahimoff and Pamiat Azova, of more modern construction. Besides these there are two coast defense vessels and several second-class cruisers and torpedo vessels. But few, if any, of these ships are up to date, and some of them were built so long ago as to be almost obsolete now. Yet they form the strength of the fleet upon which Russia depends for success on the sea.

"They will have to meet a thoroughly modern and excellently equipped navy. Japan has only eight battleships, but six of them are the finest afloat. There are the Yashima and Fuji, built to make 18 knots an hour, but showing better than 13 in actual trial, 12,000-ton ships with armor from 14 to 18 inches thick and carrying four 12-inch and ten six-inch rifles with 20 12-pounders. Then come the four ships of the unrivaled Shikishima class, Mikase, Hatusu, Asahi and Shikishima, 15,000 tons, 18 knots, 14 inches of armor, four 12-inch rifles, 14 six-inch quick-firers and 20 12-pounders in the main battery. Seconding these powerful bulldogs of the sea are six of the finest armored cruisers in the world, of the Asawa class, 10,000 tons, 23 knots, seven-inch armor, four eight-inch rifles, 14 six-inch quick-firers and 12 12-pounders. In addition to these fighting ships of the first class, and her minor cruisers and gunboats, Japan has nearly 70 torpedo vessels.

But not alone in the character of her ships has Japan the naval advantage. She has the "national enthusiasm, the aptitude for the sea, the devotion to duty, the mechanical ingenuity, the discipline, the scientific training, the energetic initiative, that transform a navy on paper into a navy in fact." Her navy is symmetrically provided with ships of all classes, and for transport service she has the mercantile marine of all Japan, the fleet of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha alone numbering 33 vessels. No great coal capacity is needed in her fighting ships, for their work will be done close to home where the coaling facilities are abundant. The weight taken up in Russian ships by coal is given to guns and armor in the Japanese fighters. Of the five government docks four

# CAUSES OF CONFLICT

Contentions of Japan and Russia in the Far East.

## THE INDEPENDENCE OF COREA

The Mikado Wants the Czar to Guarantee to Keep His Hands Off the Hermit Nation—Russia's Land Greed.

With all the diplomatic technicalities removed the real cause for the Russian-Japanese difficulties in Asia is the open door in China. Corea is but a side issue that serves a diplomatic purpose. To be sure if Russia will guarantee the independence of the hermit nation, will agree to keep her hands off, it will settle the question. This Russia is willing to do with conditions, conditions which Japan is not willing to grant. Russia is willing to give up Corea, for the present at least, if in turn Japan will not question her right to Manchuria, but



MARQUIS ITO. The great conservative statesman of Japan, who, though not in office at the present time, has been called upon by the Mikado and his cabinet to virtually conduct the negotiations with Russia.

Japan does question, and she cannot afford to do otherwise.

Walter Wellman has explained the whole subject of the contentions between these two dominant powers of the east probably more clearly than any other writer who has attempted to handle the subject. He writes under a Washington date, and his sources of information is not only our own state department, but the Washington embassies of the powers of Europe and Asia as well. Mr. Wellman says:

"Japan demands that Russia sign a treaty stipulating the independence of Corea.

"Russia has expressed a willingness to sign such a treaty, with conditions, and the conditions are that Japan shall stipulate free reia for Russia in Manchuria, and, by implication, in other Chinese territory.

"Japan has refused to accept any conditions, has declined to take any step which might be construed as a recognition of Russian sovereignty in Manchuria, and has insisted upon settlement of the question of the future status of Corea without involving that settlement with the status of the Chinese province.

This crisis is the natural, the inevitable collision of two great forces which for years has been working toward one another. The national policies of the two powers have for years drifted nearer and nearer to actual collision. Peace has been preserved through makeshift and procrastination of the evil hour. But at last they are face to face.

"The two forces which have come into collision are the instinctive lines of expansion of the two countries. On the one side is Russia, marching steadily, almost resistlessly, craftily, sometimes trickily, toward the Pacific; advancing with railroad and army and traders and assumption of local authority wholly subversive of the nominal sovereignty of Peking; moving on powerfully through assimilation of the masses, through a pressure almost glacial, masked behind a stealth fairly feline; creeping forward, ever forward, now and then seeming to pause, but only seeming, for craft's sake.

"On the other side is Japan, whose national instinct centers upon two points: First, self-preservation by preventing the vast ogre of Russia sweeping through to the Pacific and there spreading up and down with an expansive grab which in the end must threaten and finally crush Japan's very existence. Second, the more immediate and practical aspiration of Japan for an outlet upon the mainland of Asia. Japan lacks room. Its little island kingdom is not large enough for its people. To the east the vast Pacific; to the west, the tottering governments of Corea and China, and it is to the west Japan must perforce look for expansion, for her opportunity, for self-preservation commercially and politically.

"When Japan turns her longing gaze to the mainland she beholds there, entrenched, greedy, powerful, stealthy and almost resistless, the hordes of Russia, and back of them an instinctive national policy which deliberately plans and un-

ceasingly seeks to overrun all China. After the war between Japan and China, which resembled combat between the swordfish and the whale, and which resulted in a crushing victory for the little fish, the people of Japan congratulated themselves upon their success in securing a firm foothold on the mainland. Their national aspirations were about to be realized, they thought. But the European powers intervened, largely through Russian influence and intrigue, and the Japanese were compelled to give up all they had won. They have never ceased yearning for a return to their task, for a wiping out of that humiliating rebuff.

"With painful anxiety Japan has watched the steady eastward march of Russia—the railroad, the trader, the complete local rule, the outpost ever moving farther out, Russian predominance through fear and bribery at Peking, and finally Russia playing in Corea the same game of industrial concessions, the establishment of local trading companies, backed by the government, a gradual enlargement of Russian influence over the weak and flabby government at Seoul, which it had so successfully played in Manchuria and at the Chinese capital.

"It is pointed out here by well informed observers that Japan does not herself seek the absorption of Corea. She does not seek to make that country Japanese territory. All she asks is that the integrity of Corea be guaranteed in a treaty, and that afterward all the world be free to compete for trade and to participate in the development of that region. She asks no special privilege for herself, and stands for the open door of opportunity and friendly competition in accordance with the principle laid down by the great American secretary of state, Mr. Hay. She has not asked that Corea be assigned to her political sphere of influence, and is willing to take her chances in the rivalry of the future. But Japan does demand that Russia shall in writing pledge herself to a like attitude.

"It is known here that Russia virtually gave Japan an opportunity in the course of the recent negotiations to become a co-partner in the dismemberment of China. That is to say, if Japan had been willing to make a compact, to join hands with Russia in the game of grab, the Mikado's government might have had Corea, whilst Russia was holding fast to Manchuria and reaching out for Mongolia and North China. Had Japan been willing to become a party to this international piracy Seoul would soon have fallen under the domination of Tokio and Peking would have become a very truth an annex to St. Petersburg. Japan has not succumbed to the temptation, whether through the operation of a high principle or suspicion of the good faith of the proposing partner, no one is able to say. It is said here by men whose words carry weight that Japan had her choice between a grabbing alliance with Russia or a continuance of her sympathetic relations with Great Britain and the United States and chose the latter.



ADMIRAL ALEXIEFF. The representative of the czar in the Far East, and commander of the Russian forces there. It is said that he, more than any other one person, is responsible for the policy of Russia in China and Corea.

If this is true, the choice was highly significant of the future."

Such is a fair statement of causes and conditions in the far east. It is the land greed of Russia on the one hand, the stretching out of the paw of the bear for every available mile of territory, his insatiable appetite for domain, in opposition to the real needs of Japan, the needs that came with the awakening of the empire, with its vast population striving to make up for its centuries of slumber.

If Japan's factory wheels continue to revolve she must have markets. To get these she must dominate the far east in a commercial sense. This she feels that she can do if given a fair field. She finds in Manchuria a market for some \$15,000,000 worth of manufactured products each year. With Russia in control of that territory this market would practically be closed to her. She not only needs markets, but she needs room for her surplus population. Her 46,000,000 of people must have more room. Manchuria offers this. Out of this one province of China three empires the size of Japan could be builded, and its population numbers less than 7,000,000 of people. If this opportunity is to be stolen by Russia the lesser one offered by Corea must be saved.

Domesticated Yaks. Farmers in northern Sweden are importing domesticated yaks from the Himalayas, these animals standing the severe Scandinavian climate admirably.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JAPANESE TROOPS</li> <li>RUSSIAN TROOPS</li> <li>RUSSIAN VESSELS</li> <li>JAPANESE VESSELS</li> <li>BRITISH VESSELS</li> <li>HEADQUARTERS</li> <li>NAVAL DEPOTS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAILWAYS</li> <li>BOUNDARIES</li> <li>PROPOSED RUSSIAN RAILWAY</li> <li>JAPANESE TELEGRAPH LINE</li> <li>TERRITORY TAKEN BY RUSSIA</li> <li>JAPANESE TELEGRAPH GUARDS</li> <li>RUSSIAN FORTS</li> </ul>
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SCENE OF THE FAR EAST CONFLICT. A study of this map will give an idea of the military situation in the Far East. It shows the position of troops and war vessels of both nations and their proximity to the scene of conflict; the lines of rail transportation, and the territory claimed by Russia in Manchuria.

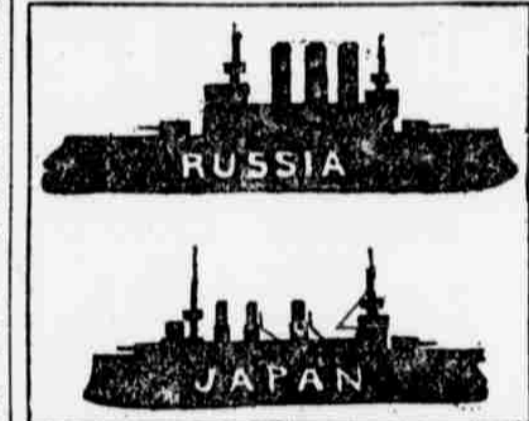
men. On a war footing this is increased to 4,600,000 men, while the total number of men Russia could put into the field numbers close to 8,000,000. This vast army is well equipped with arms, clothing and commissary supplies and fairly well disciplined. It is weak in three essentials. First it is scattered over a vast territory stretching from the Baltic sea on the west to the Pacific on the east, and from the Black sea, Causasia and Manchuria on the south to the Arctic ocean on the north. Connecting these widely separate units is a single line of railway across Siberia. But this railway has been equipped more for the transportation of troops than for the hauling of merchandise. On it not less than 50,000 troops can be in motion at one time, and within 15 days from the time the first of these leave St. Petersburg they can be landed in Manchuria. Of Russia's 1,100,000 peace army not less than 300,000 are either in Manchuria at the present time, or within a short distance of there.

On a peace footing the Japanese army numbers 168,000 men. In time of war this number can be increased to a little less than 650,000 men, but this is practically the extreme limit. Japan's peace army is well equipped. Considering its size it is well supplied with both artillery and cavalry, though in neither arm is it a match for the enormous

a wonderful effect upon the army discipline. The autocratic government of the czar, on the other hand, demands and receives a blind obedience rendered without other interest than the obeying of orders so as to escape the punishments that come with disobedience. The effect of the Japanese training makes of their army an agile, enthusiastic, mobile body, that stands out in strong contrast to the slow moving, massive, machine of Russia.

The first conflict of the contest must necessarily be on the sea. Japan must control on the water before she can successfully transfer the conflict to the land. Mr. O. K. Davis, the correspondent of the New York Sun in China during the Boxer troubles, contributed to the December Everybody's an article on the Japanese-Russian situation in which he embodied a good comparison of the naval strength of the two nations, and in which he says:

"In number of ships Russia outclasses Japan. She has 22 battleships to Japan's eight, 16 coast defense ships to three, 23 armored cruisers to seven, and 66 protected cruisers and gunboats to 34. But the Russian ships are divided into three fleets, one for the Baltic, 14,000 miles from Port Arthur, and another 9,000 miles away in the Black sea. To reinforce the far eastern fleet after war begins will be impossible, for Russia



NAVAL STRENGTH OF RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

In the above diagram the total strength of Russia's navy is shown, no allowance being made for that part of it virtually tied up in the Black and Baltic seas. Of sea power in the Far East Russia is weaker than Japan, both in number and classification of ships.

will take the largest battle ships. Besides, there are a dozen private docks.

In contrast with this, Russia has the ice-bound harbor of Vladivostock, with its yards and docks closed for nearly half the year, a private dock at Tallewan, and the vaunted Port Arthur, which, although a tower of strength if she wins on the sea, will be like a felon on the end of a finger if she lose the naval fight."

## JAPAN'S COMMERCE.

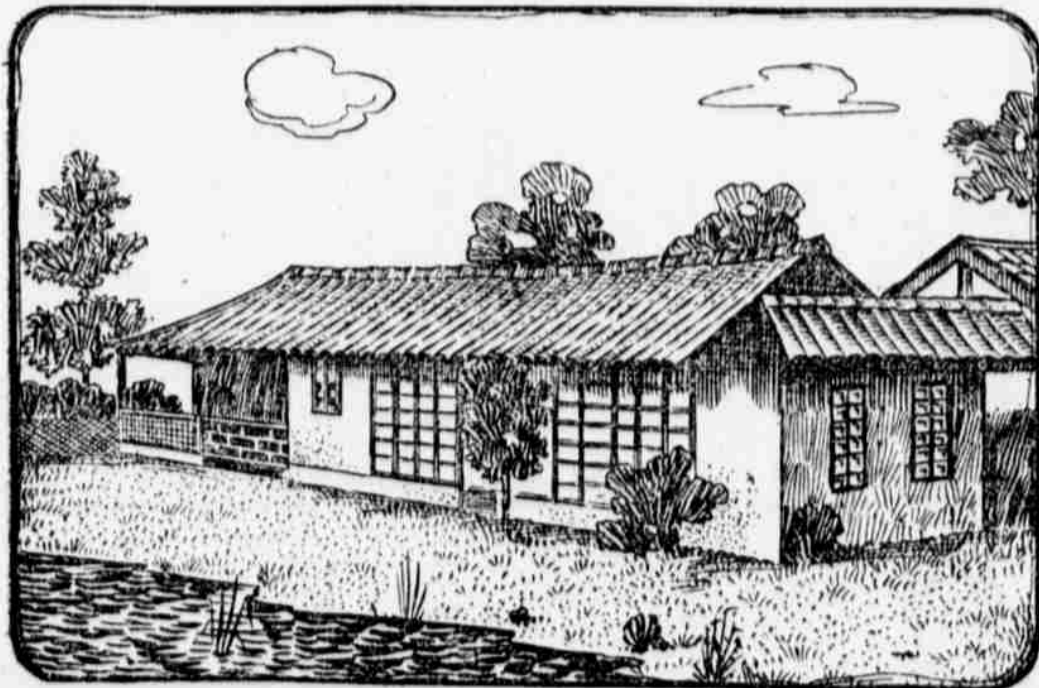
Figures That Show Her Growing Commercial Interests in the Disputed Territory.

The imports and exports of the Japanese in the ports of Niuchwang, Tientsin and Chefoo, not including Port Arthur, Dainy and Tsiaodshow, amount to \$15,000,000. Including the latter three places the Japanese commerce exceeds that of any other country. The following figures of imports and exports into Tientsin and Chefoo in 1901 indicate the predominance of the Japanese: Japan, \$4,690,392; Hong-Kong, \$3,446,252; all other countries, \$1,635,738.

The same may be said of Japanese imports into Niuchwang, with the exception of the imports of cotton goods, in which business the Americans are at the head. Imports from the United States, \$2,946,500; from East Indies, \$2,357,200; from Japan, \$942,880.

On the other hand, Japan is leading in the business of exporting beans and bean cakes from Niuchwang, which average from \$3,535,800 to \$4,714,400 per annum.

Upon the whole, the commerce of Japan in Niuchwang is more than \$11,786,000 per annum.



MINISTER ALLEN'S RESIDENCE. American interest in the conflict centers, to a great extent, around the American legation at the Korean capital. This is in charge of Hon. Horace N. Allen, the resident minister, and is now protected by a guard of 40 marines from the United States cruiser Vicksburg. The residence of Minister Allen is, like all Korean dwellings, a frail structure built to a large extent of bamboo, and exposed on all sides. Minister Allen has resided in Corea for a number of years, going there when the country was first opened to foreigners as a Presbyterian missionary. Afterwards he was consul general and minister resident, and has been the minister plenipotentiary since 1901. During the World's Columbian exposition he was in charge of the Korean exhibit at Chicago.