

WAR IN THE FAR EAST

MAP OF THE THEATER OF WAR; LOCATION OF TROOPS OF CONTESTANTS

PROGRESS OF THE GREAT STRUGGLE UP TO DATE.

Conflict Not Four Months Old and Russia has Received Blows Which Have Staggered the Big Empire—Land Battles Expected Soon.

The war in the far East is not yet four months old and Russia has been dealt blows which have given rise to a spirit of black pessimism throughout the big empire. Primarily the czar's forces exhibited an unpreparedness for strife, considering the aggressive nature of the negotiations between the two powers, which has drawn on the Russian authorities the ridicule of the world's military experts and summary punishment from the duped, gentle-minded autocrat. Nor is this yet the worst. The Russian squadron at Port Arthur was given a terrific drubbing, which left two of the fleet of formidable battleships disabled and the morale of the fort's defenders considerably diminished. Since that first decisive blow the Japanese, whom the Russians had derisively termed "barbarians," have demonstrated a sustained ability and strategy which strained to the breaking point the spirit of their phlegmatic foe. At practically every point have the Muscovite arms been baffled or defeated. At the beginning of hostilities the czar's fleet at Port Arthur numbered seven stanch battleships, as many well-built cruisers and a horde of smaller craft. This force, by the persistent hammering of the Japanese, has been reduced to two undamaged battleships and two or three cruisers. Moreover Admiral Makarov, whose aggressive methods had revived hope in the Russian breast, has fallen a victim to the enemy's lure, and paid for his error with his life. On land the Japanese triumphs, while native in their nature, have been none the less positive in effect. With little or no fighting the Russian custodians have been almost completely driven out of Korea. The disputed territory, and the Japanese outposts burn their campfires fearlessly on the banks of the Yalu, ready at the proper moment to cross that fateful stream and precede the invasion of Manchuria, possibly Siberia.



RUSSIAN TROOPS
JAPANESE TROOPS
WWW INTRENCHMENTS
O FORTIFIED PLACES
—Chicago Tribune.

The next move of the little brown people is problematical. A few military authorities hold that the Japanese armies should penetrate to Harbin, depriving the enemy so effectively of a convenient base of operation as to render a repositioning of the lost ground technically impossible. Other experts advocate a forward movement only as far as Mukden, believing that should the Japanese become tangled in the wide about Harbin they would be forced to a retreat as disastrous as was that of Bonaparte from Moscow. Meanwhile the Russian Baltic fleet, which is the sole remaining inspiration of naval Russia, is preparing to leave via the Buez canal for the far East, employing a devious route which will leave the Japanese undisputed masters of eastern waters for at least two months. This is a nutshell of the situation.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY'S NEW HOPE IN THE WAR



ADMIRAL SKRYDLOFF, the new commander-in-chief of Russia's naval forces at the scene of the war, whose appointment has created much enthusiasm, has said to his friends in St. Petersburg that when he arrives in the Orient he will attempt to unite the Port Arthur and Vladivostok squadrons at Port Arthur.

WAR DURING THE WEEK.

Little Sea Fighting—Russia Now Unable to Prevent Japs Landing.
There was little sea fighting during the last week. The Japanese have been retreating up and down both sides of the Liaoting peninsula with transport fleets. According to the Chicago Tribune's strategist, they mean to bewilder the enemy as to their eventual landing place, and, if possible, to weary him by inducing him to shift his troops rapidly from one point on the coast to another.

The Russians will be unable to prevent a landing. They cannot fortify and garrison the entire south Manchurian coast. They will have to permit the landing, and thereafter try to make the Japs sorry they ever came off the water. The only naval exploit performed by the Russians during the week was the blowing up of one of their own launches, together with its crew of twenty-one men. The launch was laying mines in Port Arthur to destroy the Japanese. The battleship Pobieda, which was struck by a mine a few minutes after the sinking of the Petropavlovsk, turns out to have been hopelessly damaged.

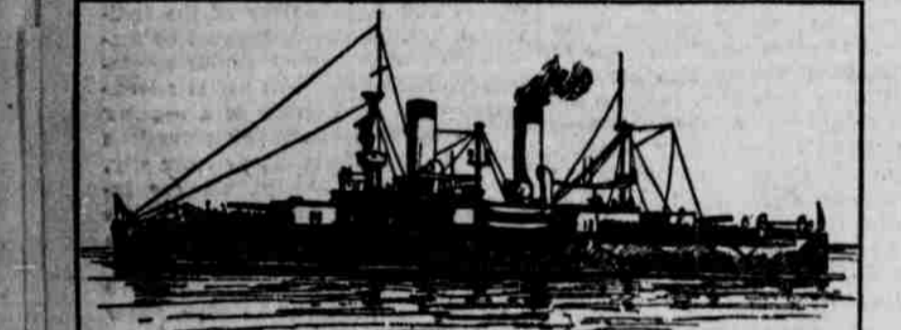
The main Japanese force is now at Wiju, spreading eastward a considerable distance. It is believed by the Russians that a Japanese division is approaching the middle reaches of the Yalu with the intention of crossing there. The Manchurian country opposite is much less hilly than to the west. The position of this putative division is indicated on the map with a question mark after it.

It is believed that not over four Russian regiments remain on the Yalu opposite Wiju. They will try to make the Japanese crossing as bloody as possible and then retreat. The Japs have seized the islands in the middle of the river, which at the beginning of the week were in the hands of their enemies.

The Russians have fortified the line from Liaoyang to Tenguangcheng. It is a strong position, both tactically and strategically. Lying in the hills behind intrenchments, it will be difficult to shove the Russians away from this line. On the other hand, it would be strategically dangerous to leave them there unmolested and proceed across the Yalu southwestward toward Port Arthur, hugging the seacoast. Such a maneuver would leave a strong force in the flank and rear of the advancing army. On the other hand, the advancing army would not be in danger of having its communications cut, since its base would be the sea. But the Japanese want to hold Korea at all costs, even if they are beaten in Manchuria. If they advanced across the Yalu southwestward, with the Russians intrenched in the hills obligingly to their rear, they might be cut off from a return to Korea and from making their defensive stand there.

The Japs have a fortified line from Gensan across to Chinnampo, behind which they meant to stick at all hazards, even if they had had luck in the battleships to the north.

The main Russian concentration is now supposed to be at Liaoyang. If the Japanese forces divide into two or more



RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP PETROPAVLOVSK.

be ultimate issue is another problem not easy of solution. Russia is a nation of enormous resources and wealth in men and munitions. The loss of a few million dollars or a few thousand lives can weigh little in the scale of the indomitable policy which St. Petersburg has prosecuted for the last century and a half.

The future will be determined by the success or failure of Japan to sustain a chain of victories which have characterized her campaign up to the present. It has been shown that the generals of the Mikado and his admirals are not lacking in mental perspicacity, and that troops and sailors are hard and enduring fighters. Russia, however, is regarded to be an international bulwark, not waning when she has been defeated and pressing forward ever to an inexorable end. In the tedious, bloody course of the war, which may drag itself a length of many years instead of months, many realities and factors now dormant will be played to exhaustion ere a permanent peace is established.

RUSSIA ISSUES PAPER MONEY.

Puts Out \$15,000,000 Against Gold—War Finances.
Russia has made a new issue of \$15,000,000 in paper currency against free gold in the State bank. At the ministry of finance it was explained that it was an ordinary issue and in no sense was forced. Under the law paper is issuable to double the amount of gold, up to \$150,000,000, in excess of which paper issued must be covered three for four. In the State bank there is, in round figures, \$400,000,000 in gold, which would permit of an issue of \$800,000,000 in paper, but the paper issue at present amounts to only \$350,000,000.

All sorts of figures of the cost of the war are printed abroad. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Associated Press is authoritatively informed that the daily expenses are averaging \$750,000, and it is estimated that a year's expenditures for the war will total \$250,000,000. To meet this there existed a free balance of \$50,000,000, which was increased to \$115,000,000 by reduction of the ordinary budgets, leaving ostensibly \$115,000,000 to be found. But a portion of this sum is made up by the increased earnings of the railroads owned by the government. It being in reality a question of bookkeeping, how the balance is to be raised has not yet been determined.

LAUNCH BLOWN UP.

Twenty-One Russians Killed While Laying Mines at Port Arthur.
Twenty-one men were killed when a Russian launch struck a mine in the harbor at Port Arthur Friday. The launch was engaged in placing mines. It is news of this latest fatal carelessness on the part of the defenders of the stronghold was conveyed in the following dispatch from Viceroy Alexieff to the czar:

"I respectfully report to your majesty during the placing of mines by some launch launched. Lieut. Pohl and twenty men were killed through a mine exploded prematurely under the stern of one of the launches."

The war commission suppressed part of the viceroy's dispatch, which showed the mines were being laid. It is feared the launches were employed in placing the entrance to the harbor in order to prevent the Japanese from forcing an entrance and attempting to destroy the remaining ships. It is evident in the closing of the entrance that Viceroy Alexieff has no intention of letting his ships go to sea again even against an inferior force, though this is not the policy of Vice Admiral Skrydloff, who will determine on a plan of operation when he assumes command.

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.

A dispatch from Port Arthur reports the complete destruction of a Japanese column on the Yalu river.

Viceroy Alexieff reports to the czar that a Russian launch, engaged in placing mines at Port Arthur, was destroyed by one of the mines and a lieutenant and twenty men perished.

It is said that on the eve of the disaster to the Petropavlovsk Vice Admiral Makarov telegraphed to the czar that he was about to fight a decisive action with the enemy's fleet.

The European Economist of Paris says that Russia is negotiating with the principal English banks for a loan of \$150,000,000 at six per cent four-year treasury bonds, to be placed at 98.

Runners are in circulation that two beggars made an attempt to assassinate Gen. Kuropatkin while he was in Newchwang recently. The beggars were arrested and found to have knives concealed. It is said they were Japanese.

Two suspected Japanese have been arrested on the railroad near Volodga, in northeastern Russia, 302 miles from Moscow, with plans in their possession of Archangel and the famous monastery on the island of Solovetsky, in the White



LAST OF THE "KORIEZ." The funnel of the sunken gunboat sacrificed by the Russians at Chempo.

armies, operating in separate parts of Manchuria, Kuropatkin might have a chance to throw his Liaoyang army first at one then at the other of his enemy's segments, beating each in turn. On land the Liaoyang concentration gives the Russians the benefit of interior lines.

Cossack outposts have advanced uninterrupted to within eighty miles of Gensan, on the eastern coast of Korea. This shows that the mysterious Japanese army which landed at Gensan did not march north, and that the reported landing at Possiet bay was either a myth or a feint. There are certainly no Japanese soldiers in that vicinity at present.

CANAL IS NOW OURS.

FORMAL TRANSFER TO UNITED STATES MADE IN PARIS.

Clear Title Is Given Uncle Sam to Panama Franchise and Rights—American Representatives Issue Statement—Features in the Negotiations.

The Panama canal strip and the Panama canal franchise are now the property of the United States. The formal signing of documents whereby the title passes to the United States took place in Paris Friday.

W. A. Day and Charles W. Russell, assistant United States Attorneys General, who have charge of the negotiations, gave out the publication a brief statement of what had been done.

The official statement says: "The papers transferring the rights and property by the new Panama Canal Company to the United States have already been executed and delivered. They will be ratified to-morrow afternoon by the stockholders' meeting.

"The arrangement includes a general conveyance and provisions for deeds and resigning in the republic of Panama and in the canal zone now under the jurisdiction of the United States, in which zone the civil law continues in force by reason of the cessation of the zone from a civil law sovereignty. All formalities of the local law on the isthmus have been arranged for and secured to the United States.

"The property will shortly be delivered on the isthmus, and upon being done the purchase price will be immediately paid.

"The full text of the principal documents will be made public to-morrow night.

"The United States gets an unincumbered title."

The main features in the transfer have been Messrs. Day and Russell for the company, Messrs. Day and Russell for the United States, and Consul General John K. Gowdy and Roberto Lewis for the United States and Panama respectively. The two consular representatives joining in affixing the seals and attesting the signatures.

Following are the leading features in the canal negotiations:

- Nov. 18, 1901—Hay-Pauncefote treaty permitting construction of canal across isthmus negotiated.
- Dec. 16, 1901—United States Senate ratified Hay-Pauncefote treaty.
- Jan. 20, 1902—Great Britain ratified Hay-Pauncefote treaty.
- Jan. 9, 1902—Panama Canal Company offered its property to the United States for \$40,000,000.
- Jan. 9, 1902—Bill authorizing the con-

VALUE OF NIAGARA.

Its Destruction Threatened by Power-Seeking Companies.



The appearance of another corporation seeking to obtain from the New York Legislature free power privileges at Niagara Falls has aroused widespread interest. In this connection it is well to note that the commissioners of the State Park have already given warning that some of the present companies enjoying the privileges of that immense power are unlimited in the use they may make of the falls. It is claimed that a possible development of even the present companies would rob Niagara of one-third of its water, obliterate the American fall, and leave only the deeper green floor that curves smoothly over the brink of the Canadian Horseshoe.

Recent figures show that Niagara develops 3,500,000 horsepower which no flood or drought disturbs, the Great Lakes acting as an equalizer of the flow. Allowing for the brief periods during which horses can put forth their full force, unresisting Niagara could do about as much work in a year as the 18,000,000 horses of the country combined. It could furnish nearly one-third of the 11,300,000

ATLANTIC OCEAN



LOCATION OF THE CANAL.

struction of the canal adopted by House of Representatives.

- June 19, 1902—Canal bill passed by Senate.
- June 28, 1902—Canal bill signed by President Roosevelt.
- Jan. 22, 1903—Treaty with Colombia for the construction of canal negotiated.
- March 17, 1903—Columbia canal treaty ratified by United States.
- Aug. 31, 1903—Columbia treaty rejected by the government of Colombia.
- Nov. 3, 1903—Panama revolution occurred.
- Nov. 18, 1903—Canal treaty with Panama negotiated.
- Dec. 2, 1903—Canal treaty signed by Panama Junta. This ratification of it by the provisional government.
- Feb. 23, 1904—Panama canal treaty ratified by United States Senate.
- April 22, 1904—Papers transferring title to canal to United States formally signed in Paris.

JUSTICES TO RESIGN.

Fuller, Harlan and Brown Will Soon Leave the Bench.
Important changes in the personnel of the Supreme bench are now expected here. It is known in judicial circles that Chief Justice Fuller, Justice Harlan and Justice Brown plan to retire. No date is fixed, but it is understood that they will take such action within the next few months.

Having passed the age of 70 years, and having served more than ten years upon the bench, Chief Justice Fuller is entitled to retire on full pay. He took the oath of office Oct. 8, 1888. Despite his years, he continues in excellent health and is mentally vigorous, but it is known that sickness in his family has caused him much worry during the last year. For this reason he has been tempted to take advantage of the law governing retirement and to leave the responsibilities of his position to a younger man.

Justice Harlan will be 71 years old June 1. He will have been twenty-four years on the bench on the 10th of next December. He is, therefore, entitled to retirement with full pay, both on account of age and account of service. Justice Harlan's health has been far from good in the last year, and he is beginning to show his age more than any other man on the bench.

The third justice who is looked for retirement is Justice Brown. He is only 68 years of age, having been born on March 2, 1830, but he has been on the bench since 1880, and so is entitled to retirement because of length of service.

BIG FIGURES FROM THE WEST.

Marvelous Progress Outlined in a Few Astonishing Sentences.
In an interesting article in the Book-Review Magazine Harold Bole furnishes some astounding facts regarding the tremendous growth of the great West during recent years. We append some of the most startling paragraphs:

During 1903 300,000 homeseekers were established on free farms in the vast bosom of Manitoba.

Three years ago in one of the counties of the State of Washington there were but 95 voters. Now the population is 20,000 and last year the county shipped \$5,000,000 worth of wheat.

The value of gold and fish from Alaska last year exceeded \$20,000,000.

During 1903 60,000 people were added to the population of San Francisco.

News of Minor Note.

Locomotive trust bought the Rogers plant, Paterson, N. J.

Harry Lehr appeared at Baltimore with a lap dog, which wore five different shades of ribbon in one afternoon.

The wife of Capt. John Albert Fish was found dead in her room, New York. It is thought she died from using chloroform.

Martin Hansen, a Minneapolis laborer, was killed and five other persons were injured in a collision between an electric car and a wagon.

Prince Hugo Hohenlohe, brother of the head of the Hohenlohe-Oehring family, married Mme. Helga, the famous circus rider, at Berlin.

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