

BY LAND AND SEA

COMBINED ASSAULT ON PORT ARTHUR PROBABLE.

JAPANESE TOLD TO ATTACK

ORDERS ISSUED TO EFFECT CAPTURE AT ALL COSTS.

Blockade of Vladivostok Not Confirmed, But Regarded True—Commander of Port Arthur Says It Will Never Surrender.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Direct confirmation of the report from Hakodate that Vladivostok is blockaded by the Japanese vessels cannot be obtained here, but it is considered not improbable. During the Japanese landing operations in Korea the Russian warships to the north were a constant menace, and blockading them would be the most effective means of securing noninterference. Furthermore, it is worthy of note that for more than one week no word has been allowed to come from Vladivostok and this in itself seems strong presumptive evidence that important events are transpiring.

The report from Liao Yang, Manchuria, that the Japanese fleet has received orders to attack and capture Port Arthur on March 1 at all costs, coupled with the comparison of Port Arthur and Sevastopol, made by the Novoe Vremya, has created a profound impression, and has added to the belief that the Japanese possibly intend to commence land and sea operations against Port Arthur sooner than was anticipated.

The family of a foreigner employed at Port Dalny arrived here yesterday, having made the trip in eighteen days. One of the members said to the correspondent of the Associated press:

"The day after the outbreak of hostilities, the authorities ordered all non-combatants to leave Port Dalny in order to have as few mouths as possible to feed in the event of a siege.

"If the Japanese invest Port Arthur there were enough provisions when I left to last eight months. We passed a continual stream of troop trains going east."

PORT ARTHUR.—General Stoessel, commander of the garrison here has issued a general order directing the attention of the troops and inhabitants to the fact that the Japanese intend to land and seize the fortress. The general declares the Japanese consider the seizure of Port Arthur to be a question of national honor, and from their obstinate attacks and bombardments of the fortress and says he can only conclude that the enemy will make every effort to capture the fortress, failing which the Japanese will destroy the railroad and withdraw.

"The enemy however," proceeds the general order, "is mistaken. Our troops know and the inhabitants are herewith informed by me that we will not yield. We must fight to the finish, as I the commandant, will never give an order to surrender. I call on all to become convinced of the necessity of fighting to the death. Those who leave without fighting will not save themselves. There is no way out. On three sides there is the sea, and on the fourth will be the enemy. There is no means of escape except by fighting."

Notwithstanding the heavy gale which is blowing the lights of Japanese scouting vessels are visible in the offing during the night.

MOSCOW.—A large representative meeting of the marshals, nobility and chief government officials was held yesterday to discuss the best methods of assisting the Russians wounded during the war in the far east. At the close of the meeting a telegram was dispatched to the czar expressing unbounded loyalty to him. His majesty immediately replied, expressing his heartfelt gratitude for the noble thought which inspired the message and sentiments voiced towards himself, adding:

"I see in these expressions new testimony of a determination on the part of as they did in former days and to work in common with the soldiers of Russia in the welfare of our fatherland."

RUSSIA MEANT WAR

JAPAN THINKS PROTEST COMES WITH POOR GRACE.

Formal Declaration Not Necessary in View of Breaking Off of All Relations Before Striking Blow.

WASHINGTON.—The Japanese minister tonight gave out the official reply of his government to the note of Russia to the powers, charging the Japanese with opening hostilities without a formal declaration of war. The reply deals at great length with Russia's preparations for war in the far east while diplomatic negotiations were being delayed by that government, and contends that the responsibility rests with Russia. The document says, after summing up all the Russian military and naval preparation made and in contemplation:

"In view of these facts who can say that Russia had no warlike intentions or that she was unprepared for war? Seeing that the situation had become so critical that it admitted of no further delay, the Japanese government as compelled to break off negotiations that had proved abortive and to take the necessary steps for self-protection. But the responsibility for the challenge to war rests not with Japan but solely with Russia.

"On the 6th of February Japan announced to Russia her decision to terminate the pending negotiations and to take such independent action as she might deem best to defend her position menaced by Russia and to protect her established rights and legitimate interests. At the same time the government of Japan informed the Russian government that as its moderate and unselfish proposals in the interest of a firm and lasting peace in the far east had not received the consideration which was their due, Japan had resolved to serve her diplomatic relations with Russia, which for the reason named, had ceased to possess value, and to withdraw from her legation.

"The term 'independent action' naturally included the opening of hostilities. The fact that Russia was unable to understand it in that light is, of course no reason why Japan should be held responsible for the misinterpretation made by Russia. It is the almost unanimous opinion of international jurists that a declaration of war is not an indispensable prerequisite to the opening of hostilities. Indeed it has been the common practice in recent wars to declare war after hostilities had begun. Japan's action therefore is not open to the least criticism in this regard. From the standpoint of international law it must be understood that the charge made against her does not come with good grace from Russia, in as much as the same are not only many historical instances of Russia herself resorting to hostilities without declaring war, but one came, that of her invasion of Finland in 1808, when she began war before there had even been a rupture of diplomatic relations."

TOKIO.—"The general staff and regiment of the guards left Japan today for a port on the west coast of Korea, probably Chemulpo.

The general election was held today in Japan and was without disturbance of any kind. An imperial receipt conveying the diet in special session at Tokio on March 18 will be issued on March 2. This session will last for ten days, and the most important bill to be presented is one which increases the land tax by 1 1/2 per cent.

This increase will result in doubling the income from this source.

According to the stipulations of the protocol the Japanese minister at Seoul has notified the Korean government that the building of a railroad from Seoul to Wiju for military uses will be commenced forthwith. Engineers and surveyors have already left Seoul.

Must Flee from the State

WASHINGTON.—Postmaster E. S. Parnell of Junction, Union county, Arkansas, has resigned his office, and in his letter to the postmaster general says:

"My reasons for resigning are that my family have become mixed up in what is known in this county as the Parnell-Tucker feud. This is a political feud and as four members of our family have been assassinated within the last fifteen months I feel that it is clearly my duty to my family and friends that I leave the stage. I hope the department will relieve me at the earliest moment."

CLASH NEARLY DUE

FIGHTING FORCES IN KOREA GET CLOSE TOGETHER

MANY TROOPS LANDED

ADVANCE GUARD OF RUSSIANS CLOSE TO PING YANG.

Get Control of Telegraph Offices.—Imprison District Governor and Confiscate all the Official Papers.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Major General Pfluz, Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, sends in the following telegram dated March 2:

"According to additional information which has reached me, our patrols, having passed the night eight miles from Ping Yang, Korea, approached that town on the morning of February 29. They were closely pressing a Japanese patrol of seven officers. Lieutenant Lunchakoff attacked this patrol with three Cossacks, forcing it to retreat at a gallop towards the gates of Ping Yang.

"The presence of our patrol near Ping Yang caused great alarm, and soon the enemy's sharpshooters manned the walls' towers and opened fire, expecting an attack. According to the report, our patrols approached within 700 paces of Ping Yang, which they found to be surrounded by both old and new ramparts. These, however, were not yet occupied by the enemy and it is supposed that the Japanese have not more than 1,000 men in Ping Yang."

TOKIO.—It has been learned that the Russians have occupied the telegraph offices at Anju and Yongpyon, north of Ping Yang, Korea. They have imprisoned the district governor and have confiscated official papers. The Russian force near Anju numbers about forty men. The main Russian force is concentrated at Liao Yang, 120 miles northwest of Antung. The Russians near Antung on the Yalu river aggregate 2,000. No important engagement is expected south of the Yalu river, which it is believed the Russians will make their main line of defense.

The diet will meet on March 13 on a call of the mikado to vote on war measures. It is anticipated that the entire program of the government will be approved, and it is expected that the session will be concluded within ten days.

Tragedy in Jail.

WHEELING, W. Va.—Facing the certainty of his third term in state prison, Scott Neal of Martin's Ferry, charged with attempting to kill his wife, tried to shoot his way to liberty to-night and was responsible for a bloody tragedy in the St. Clairville, O., jail corridor. Neal had secured possession of a revolver, and told James Sutton, a Belleaire prisoner awaiting trial for two mysterious murders, of his intentions. Sutton dropped a note from the window warning the jailer. Clyde Bulger, the jailer, entered the corridor to lock up the prisoners for the night, and was accompanied by Sheriff Majors and two deputies. Neal realized that he had been betrayed, and shot Sutton through the temple, killing him instantly. He then pointed his revolver at the jailer, demanding that he unlock the doors. Bulger grappled with him and with Neal's gun resting against his temple, whipped out his own revolver and shot Neal through the heart.

Want All Light

WASHINGTON.—An effort to all the innermost secrets of the Mormon faith was manifested in the first day's proceedings before the senate committee on privileges and elections which is investigating the protests against Reed Smoot's retaining his seat as a senator from Utah. President Joseph F. Smith, the highest officer of the church, was on the stand all day. He was questioned closely in regard to the principles of divine revelations. He said he adhered absolutely to all the teachings of the church in that regard and that he himself had been visited with divine inspirations from God, directing him as to details in affairs pertaining to the welfare of the church, though no angles had come to him as in the case of the revelation to his uncle, Joseph Smith, Jr., the founder of the church.

HAS NEW FOE TO FACE

CHINESE REBELS TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST RUSSIANS.

Story of Japanese Bombardment on Monday Morning Now Believed to Be Echo of Former Engagements.

LONDON.—Hardly a word of news from the seat of war, with the exception of the Russian official dispatches, is published this morning, and it now seems clear that the story in the Morning Telegraph two days ago of a bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese on February 29 is nothing more than a re-echo of previous attacks.

From Yingtse comes an unconfirmed report that 500 bandits, armed with modern rifles have attacked a Russian post to the west of Haicheng, thirty-two miles northeast of Niuchwang. There was severe fighting, and both sides lost heavily. This report is discredited at Yingtse, but if it is true it indicates that a serious danger is confronting Russia in these well armed brigands.

According to the Daily Mails' account of this affair, six Japanese found among the bandits were killed. This would tend to show that the Japanese are organizing the bands.

Reports from Tokio declare that Japan has granted permission for fifty-three foreign newspaper correspondents to accompany the Japanese forces. Seventeen of these correspondents are Americans. The date of their departure has not been fixed.

A mile and a quarter of the Siberian railroad, according to the Tokio reports, has been destroyed near Ninguta half way between Vladivostok and Harbin.

The Tien Tsin correspondent of the Standard cables that the Russians are strongly fortifying points south of Mukden. Thousands of coolies, who are working day and night on the ramparts and entrenchments of Haicheng, are compelled to labor without pay.

Church His Law.

WASHINGTON.—Attorneys for the protestants in the Smoot investigation said they intended to prove that the defendant is associated with a hierarchy which practices polygamy and convives at violations of the law and that his very vote as a senator of the United States is subject to the wish and command of the Mormon church. President Joseph F. Smith confessed that he himself had continued to cohabit with his plural family since the manifesto of 1890 and that he realized fully that he was violating state laws. President Smith also testified that Reed Smoot had to get the consent of his associate apostles in the church before he could become candidate for senator.

Colorado Miners go Free.

CHIPPLE CREEK, Colo.—A jury in the conspiracy case against Sherman Parker and Thomas Foster, miners union leaders, who were charged with conspiring to wreck a Florence & Chippile Creek passenger train, tonight rendered a verdict of not guilty after a brief deliberation. After shaking hands with their attorneys and the members of the jury the defendants left the courtroom in company with President Meyer of the western federation of miners and other union leaders.

Two Killed in Race War.

FORT SMITH, Ark.—It is reported that two white men were killed and one white man and two negroes were severely wounded tonight in a race riot at Bokashee, I. T. White laborers in the Midland Valley railroad camp a short distance from Bokashee tonight attempted to drive the negro laborers from town. The negroes resisted and a fight followed. Further clashes are feared as the negroes are reported to have fortified themselves in a woods and seem determined to resist all efforts to dislodge them.

Burlington Bridge Burned.

WRAY, Colo.—The Burlington railroad bridge over the Republican river near the Nebraska line burned this afternoon. Traffic will be delayed several hours. The bridge was nearly a mile long and cost \$500,000. It probably caught fire from a passing locomotive. A sixty mile an hour wind was blowing, making it impossible for railroad men to extinguish the flames.

NEBRASKA NOTES

A new free rural delivery route is to be established soon out of Gretna. Mr. O. B. Canfield died this week at his home in Edgar after a long illness.

James D. Brown a pioneer of Brainard, is dead. He was born in Tennessee in 1822.

A building boom is on at Butte, and a large number of houses will be erected this summer.

General Manager Bancroft of the Union Pacific took a trip to Lincoln Sunday to inspect the line.

The Congregational church at Petersburg will celebrate its tenth anniversary March 15.

The German Mutual Telephone company of Petersburg has been organized by farmers in that vicinity.

Mrs. Lillian Swanson of Nebraska City has brought suit for a divorce from her husband, alleging cruelty and drunkenness.

Anna Elizabeth Rille died at Dakota City last week. She was 84 years old and a native of Denmark, having come to Nebraska in 1874.

The little son of Farmer Burak of Battle Creek fell from a wagon and his ear was almost severed from his head by striking against the wheel.

The farmers of the Plattford precinct in Sarpy county have organized a telephone line and will begin work on it early in the spring.

The Argo starch factory at Nebraska City began operations this week and will begin grinding corn soon. A full force will be employed in a few days.

Orin A. Foster of Lincoln asks a divorce from his wife, claiming that while he was away in the army he sold the household goods and deserted him.

The revival services that are being conducted in the Methodist church at Table Rock this week will next week be taken in charge by Evangelist Campbell of Lincoln.

E. G. Harrington of Gretna and Miss Louise Sharpe of near Elk City were married Thursday at the home of the bride's father Tuesday. A large wedding dinner was served.

Stockholders of the Lincoln Auditorium association elected directors for 1904. The new board will organize soon, when a report of the finances of the association will be submitted.

"The Fair" a general store at Scotts Bluff, owned by George Iceland, was damaged by fire Saturday night to the extent of about \$1,500. The loss is fully covered by insurance.

The Bohemian Turners society of Schuyler will erect a building this coming year adapted to all the needs of the society as Turners, together with rooms for their festivals and entertainments.

Ed Meyer of Bartlett has filed a complaint against A. H. Webb, charging him with firing three or four shots at him. None of the shots took effect, but one passed through Meyer's clothing.

A farmers' institute will be held at Hay Springs March 7. Dr. Peters and other speakers will address the meeting and premiums will be given for the best samples of the different grains grown here.

Benjamin Fischer and Miss Mary Blaker, both Barneston, were married in the county court at Beatrice, Judge Browne officiating. The young couple will make their home in Barneston.

Charles Vavra a student at the state university at Lincoln, was fined \$25 and costs in police court on the charge of stealing books. Action by the university authorities will undoubtedly follow.

The members of the Papillon Woman's club last night entertained their husband and friends at a Martha Washington tea party, given at the home of Mrs. A. H. Nichols. Mrs. E. N. Secord presided over the meeting.

The Hay Springs fire company gave its annual ball in the Hay Springs opera house. A large number from Gordon, Chadron and Rushville attended the dance. The proceeds of the ball will be used toward the erection of a new town hall.

The Wilson post, Grand Army of the Republic, held its annual campfire at Geneva Masonic hall, and the Woman's Relief corps served supper in the banquet hall. The Rev. Abbott as the speaker of the evening and chose "Washington" for his subject.