

WAR IN THE FAR EAST

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 aggravated 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-mannered autocrat. Nor is this yet the worst. Taken by surprise, the 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 pliant 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

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 feinting up and down both sides of the Liaotung 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 map gives a rough idea of the present positions of the hostile armies. 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 oppo-

NEBRASKA

Short Notes.

The Pawnee City opera house, which has been closed since the first of the year, has been reopened.

A number of bridges and culverts are reported washed out east of Hebron during the recent heavy rains.

The Tecumseh military band has reorganized for the season and is practicing for the open air concerts to be given each Tuesday evening during the summer.

The Modern Woodmen of America of Pawnee City are organizing a drill team which, according to present plans, is to represent their order at the St. Louis exposition.

The senior class of the Tecumseh high school includes fifteen members, four boys and eleven girls. The graduating exercises will be held at the opera house Friday evening, May 27.

The Beatrice Gas and Mineral Company has received word that land owned by the company in Kansas is oil-producing. The stockholders expect to push the work of prospecting as fast as possible.

Prof. M. S. Calvin, for the last twenty years at the head of the musical department of the Beatrice public schools, has tendered his resignation to take effect at the close of the present school year.

Henry Byars, the man arrested at Pabillon for entering houses and making advances toward women, was released from jail, it being determined that he was not of sound mind. He will be cared for by relatives.

David Littlejohn, residing about fifteen miles northeast of Beatrice, was badly injured in a runaway accident at his farm. He was thrown under the wagon, which passed over him, breaking three ribs and bruising his body.

The dairy interests of Ansley are going to make good progress this year; fully 50 per cent increase will be made over 1903, when \$40,000 was received and paid out for cream at Ansley and a like amount at Mason City.

Miss Clara Stolz of Stella, was opening a fruit jar with a butcher knife when the instrument slipped and cut a deep gash in her arm above the wrist, just missing an artery. It required three stitches to close the wound.

As a result of trying to have a drunk upon bay rum, Walter Dunning, a private in Company A, Thirtieth infantry, lies dead at Fort Crook. Dunning was company barber and drank the liquid, not realizing its probable effect.

William Hohne, the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hohne of Sterling, has been sent to the reform school. Mr. and Mrs. Hohne came into the county court of Johnson County and declared they could not control the boy.

The eighty-fifth anniversary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was observed at Sidney Tuesday. In the afternoon a parade, headed by the Sidney brass and cornet band, passed around the principal thoroughfares of the city.

Thos. Adams and other parties have leased a lot at Fremont and will at once begin the construction of a new hotel, designed especially for railroad and transient trade. The building will be two stories in height, about ninety feet deep.

The District Association of Independent Order of Odd Fellows' Lodges, comprising those in Clay and south part of Hamilton Counties, met at Sutton Tuesday to celebrate the eighty-fifth anniversary of that order. A large number were present from adjoining towns.

Schuyler people are pleased that it has been determined that the state declamatory contest of the high schools of the state is to come to Schuyler on May 6, and nothing that can be done to make the occasion one of satisfaction to all concerned will be left undone.

The board of county commissioners of Cass County has adopted a resolution authorizing the enforcement of the "scavenger act," and directing County Treasurer Wheeler to proceed to collect all delinquent taxes or those which are delinquent May 1 in Cass County.

Samuel T. Tappan, whose home was at Minden, was killed by a train at Hanover, Kan. When the train was leaving town Tappan started over the train to go to the head end, and that was the last seen of him alive. It is supposed that he lost his footing in some way and fell between the cars, his body being cut in two.

John O'Hara, a farmer residing seven miles northwest of Grand Island, while returning home from the city Wednesday night was badly injured in a runaway accident, his horses throwing him out of the vehicle, striking his head against a fence post, resulting in concussion of the brain. He has ever since been unconscious.

There are three cases of scarlet fever under quarantine in Columbus and there has been one death, a 2-year-old son of Mrs. and Mrs. Louis Zinnecker. The cases are said to be of a very malignant form, but every precaution is being taken to prevent any contagion. One case of smallpox two miles from Columbus is under care of the county board of health.

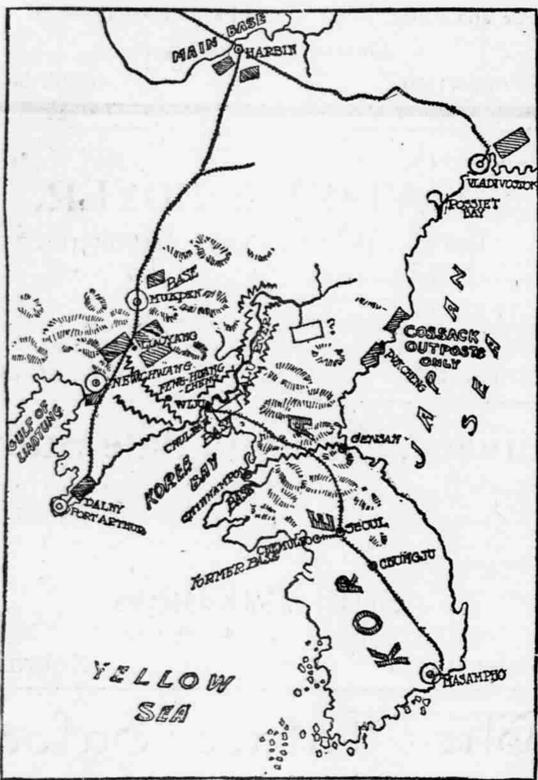
At the last meeting of the Columbus city council the rules were suspended and the ordinance forbidding the use of giant firecrackers and toy or blank cartridge pistols was read the second time. No firecracker over three inches in length can be used for celebratory purposes or even offered for sale, and any violation is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100.

E. M. Morsemann, secretary of the Nebraska Telephone Company, has filed with County Assessor Galley at Columbus a statement of the business done and property owned by the company in Platte County. He gives the grand total value of all property in the county as \$19,108. The report also shows that there are ninety-eight miles of toll wire in the county and sixty-two miles of farm wire. The company owns 220 instruments in the county, and of this number 172 are located in Columbus. The total receipts for the Columbus office last year is placed at \$8,194.82.

Owing to the continued cold, wet weather about Columbus, many of the early sown oats have rotted in the ground and reports from several parts of the county say these fields are being plowed up and replanted. Oats sown later have not been affected. Winter wheat is said to be looking very good.

C. C. Tabor, a workman at the Burlington coal sheds at Ansley, was dangerously hurt by a chunk of coal falling some thirty feet and striking him. For a time it was thought his back was broken, but later this proved untrue. At the present time he is not expected to get well.

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



No attempt has been made to estimate the numbers of troops assembled in the various points indicated on the map. Information as to the sizes of the Russian and Japanese armies and detachments has been too meager to permit of even a roughly accurate estimate.

craft. This force, by the persistent hammering of the Japanese, has been reduced to two undamaged battleships and two or three cruisers. Moreover Admiral Makroff, 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 negative 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.

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 reposition 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 wilds 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 Suez 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 in a nutshell is the situation.

Kouropatkin Supreme.

Gen. Kouropatkin, it is believed in the highest military circles, is destined to become commander in chief of all the Emperor's forces, both military and naval, in the far East.

Admiral Alexieff may remain there for some little time as viceroy, but his reign is considered practically ended. He will not be humiliated, but in order to effect harmonious relations a way will be found to secure his elimination. It is said that the Emperor, replying to Viceroy Alexieff's application for leave, has telegraphed his refusal, adding that he hoped the viceroy would be able to send good news soon.

The Japanese are stated to be laying a new sort of automatic mines floating just below the surface several miles out from Port Arthur.

site 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 unopposed 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 obliquely 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 battlefields to the north.

The main Russian concentration is now supposed to be at Liaoyang. If the Japanese forces divide into two or more armies, operating in separate parts of Manchuria, Kouropatkin 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 uninterruptedly 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.

Several American financiers are now in Paris. One of the most prominent said that a Russian loan probably would be made before long at 5 per cent, for three years, the bonds selling at between 97 and 98. The total amount is understood to be between \$150,000,000 and \$175,000,000.

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

The Russian Power.

THE Russian power appears to be a huge, portentous bubble, which the courageous Japanese have pricked. Russia has an enormous army, but where is it? How can it be got together? An army that cannot be concentrated is no fit object of terror. To be sure, we have had a few weeks of war, but that has been time enough to cripple and bottle the Russian fleet in the East, and the Baltic fleet and the Black Sea fleet dare not, or cannot, leave their stations, while one gunboat refuses to leave the port of Shanghai, and two larger ones have been hiding themselves in a French port of East Africa. The Japanese are masters of the China seas. And the Russian mighty land army of four million men, where has it vanished? A paltry hundred thousand men, or possibly a hundred and fifty thousand, are scattered along the Manchurian railway, or split up between Port Arthur and the Yalu River, unable anywhere to offer an equal front to the Japanese advance. Even the rumors that come from St. Petersburg are all of Russian losses, and most reasonable they are, for it is impossible for Russia to hasten along its ill-built railway—three sleepers to a rail—the needed reinforcements, or even the food and stores for those who are spread along the front. Japan was "bluffing," they told the czar. It is Russia that has been bluffing the deluded world. However it may be in the West, it is sure that there is nothing to fear from her in Asia, either on the Manchurian or the Indian border, if any other Power will only pluck up courage to resist her. This the New Japan has dared to do, and the black bear is utterly demoralized before the swarm of yellow hornets. It looks as if Russia would have to put off for a century, which means forever, her ambition to have four capitals—St. Petersburg, Moscow, Constantinople and Peking.—New York Independent.

School Teachers' Salaries.

ASUMMARY of the salaries paid to the school teachers in the chief European countries appeared recently in several American newspapers. This report showed that the salaries of teachers in England range from an average of \$350 for men to \$250, or even as low as \$200, for women. The lowest annual salary paid to a full-fledged teacher in Belgium is \$192. In Denmark city teachers begin with \$230 and village teachers with \$182. The average for a country or village teacher in Prussia is \$218 per year, although Berlin teachers receive from \$315 to \$650; women are paid from \$140 to \$400. France has an irreducible minimum of \$220. Holland \$160, Portugal \$96 for the country and \$108 for the city, and Sweden and Norway \$136 for men and less than \$60 for women. The average salary in Switzerland is \$340 for men and \$275 for women. Greece divides its teachers into classes, those in the first receiving a maximum salary of \$26 per month, those in the second \$16, and those in the third \$13. Teachers' salaries in Spain vary from \$100 per year in the villages to \$480 in Madrid.—Montreal Star.

Labor as Joy or Curse.

IT is worthy of note that all the great historical religions of the world—whether of the millions of Egypt toiling under the lash to build the pyramids at the wages of a couple of onions and a piece of dry bread a day, or of the millions of India working in the rice swamps amid swarms of pestiferous insects, or of the millions of the Semitic race whose traditions have been gathered together in the story of Eden and of the fall in the Book of Genesis—all have been rooted and grounded in the problem of the common doom of man that he must eat his bread in the sweat of his body and the sweat of his mind. None of these religions affects to treat the issue flippantly, rhetorically or with commonplace platitudes, but with awful seriousness. The enormous overweight of the burden of the work in comparison with the strength, spirits, interest and reward of the worker is what oppresses the minds of these teachers and prophets and brings them to the common ominous conviction that this must be the outcome of some

primeval curse and of some stupendous moral catastrophe, redemption from which is the end and aim of all higher spiritual hope.

Labor may be either joy or curse. All turns on whether it is encountered with freshness, spontaneity and zest, or whether it is draining to the dregs the springs of life. Once for all, out with it, fair, square and plump! There is no more dignity nor elevation in mere labor than in a mechanical pump-handle. What it lifts from the living, central springs beneath determines all. Our joy must be in this living water welling up, as we ourselves quaff its refreshment or extend it to the thirsty lips of others. For this sole joy that is set before us must we endure the cross and despise the pain. We think the poets exempt from this moil, pure children of inspiration. Never the weary pump-handle for them, but only the leaping geyser. But hear what Milton has to say: "No worthy enterprise can be done by us without continual plodding and weariness to our faint and sensitive abilities."—Boston Herald.

The American Husband.

AN American young man does not as a rule look forward to marriage nor prepare for it by saving any considerable portion of his ante-nuptial income. When he marries it is usually on short notice, and because he has fallen very desperately in love with some one and cannot find it in his heart to wait until cold caution declares the venture advisable. Even when an engagement is a long one he usually squanders so much on gifts and entertainments for his fiancee that there is only a very moderate amount to begin housekeeping on. Thus before his marriage the young American of the middle class begins to give evidence of what is to be his chief national characteristic as a husband—his unfeeling, unselfish and almost improvident generosity.

The middle class husband in America rarely interferes with the affairs of the household. He hardly knows the cost of staple articles of food. As a rule he does not make his wife a regular allowance either for household or personal expenses, but gives her as much as he can spare, freely, but with a lack of system that is not conducive to the best outlay of their income.

The young American husband is also very indulgent to his wife's fondness for fine clothes. He would far rather have an extravagant wife than a dowdy one, and although he grumbles occasionally at a millinery bill, in reality he glories in the resplendent appearance of his wife in her fine feathers. The American husband is rare who does not concede his wife's right to expend a much larger sum with her dressmaker than he does with his tailor. Indeed he often leaves his tailor altogether and cheerfully repairs to the ready-made clothing house in order that his wife may have more money for extravagant finery.—London Telegraph.

The Evil of Worry.

DOUTBLESS there has been more or less worry since Adam hid in the bushes, but it is a curious physiological—indeed, it may be a psychological—fact that real worry, the worry that has a definite cause, is not so wearing as the imaginary worries that we persist in taking to bed with us. We cannot rest and be busy at the same time, and it is not hard to guess what will happen to the brain that insists on fretting and worrying when it should be enjoying the serenity of repose. There are doctors who can examine your eyes and tell you whether you have kidney disease, but how much better it would be if some specialist could arise who can locate worry and pluck it out, as it were, by the roots. It is a baleful source of poison at best, and at its worst, it is ruinous. Happy the man who is able to take the measure of his worries and troubles and value them for what they are! Happy, thrice happy, is the man who can present to their attacks the impenetrable armor of serenity! His years shall be long and full of charity. His head shall be in the sunshine, and there shall be no shadow about his feet. Old men will follow him, and little children shall be his companions.—Atlanta Constitution.

WHALEBONE WHALES.

Their "Baleen" the Most Valuable Product Obtained from Whales.

Another group of whales have no teeth, but the mouth is provided with several hundred closely packed horny, flexible plates or slabs suspended from the roof of the mouth and hanging on each side like a curtain, so that when the mouth is opened as wide as possible their ends are received within the lower jaw. These plates, which in some whales are nine or ten feet long, have pointed, frayed extremities, and are lined with long, stiff hair. This peculiar substance in the mouth of whales, which is called baleen, or whalebone, although it is not bone, is now the most valuable product which is yielded by these creatures; and to obtain it thousands of men brave dangers of the seas, of the Arctic ice, and of the chase, killing the whales by hurling harpoons and shooting explosive bullets into them from a small boat.

Among the various kinds of whalebone whales is the right whale, which reaches a length of 60 feet and yields 200 barrels of oil and 1,000 pounds of long, valuable baleen; the humpback whale, which is sometimes 75 feet long, but has short bone and little oil; the finback and sulphur-bottom whales, of large size but comparatively little value; and the bow-head, Greenland, or polar whale. The last is at home among the ice fields, and is now the most sought of all the whales on account of the excellent quality and large quantity of its baleen. The maximum length is 65 feet, and its bulk is immense; the huge head represents a third of the length, and the tail is 16 to 20 feet across. The largest bow-heads produce several thousand pounds of bone worth \$5 or \$6 a pound, and 6,000 or more gallons of oil worth 40 cents a gallon.

In feeding, the baleen whales drop the lower jaw and swim forward rapidly, and all kinds of small floating animals—fish, shrimp, winged mollusks—pass into the yawning mouth.

SIX CHANGES IN WOMAN'S

FIGURE IN FORTY YEARS.



"Well, I'll have to give up and just adopt that hopeless style of figure described as a pillow with a string around it," announced the woman who at 56 was the proud possessor of a shapely figure, and who had just learned on good authority that tight lacing was coming into fashion again. "No less than six times in the last forty years I have completely changed the outline of my figure, and I am afraid I am now getting to an age where comfort is almost as much of a consideration as appearance."

"I will remember when I was 16 how pretty the fashionable figure was with its neat, small waist in the place where a waist ought to be. How trim and dainty we were. But I'm afraid a little tight lacing was needed to get the desired effect."

"Next we had those short waisted shapes which brought the squeezing away above the natural waist line. Absurd enough they would look now, but we thought them charming when they were in fashion."

"Then came those long, slim figures of the '80s with the bust unnaturally high, the waist compressed as far as possible into the hips. Pert, smart, and saucy they looked, and they were only acquired at the expense of a good deal of squeezing all along the line."

"In the '90s we had a genuine hour glass figure, girl tight around the waist and bulging above and below. I always thought it stupid. The low bust and sudden hip effect which came in next was thought to be free and natural, but was really decadent and the little girlish corset they wore could be drawn as tight as any other."

"The straight front wide waisted fashion—bless it!—is the only one I know which combines comfort and style. O, why can't it last?"—Exchange.

When the lower jaw is closed, the plates of baleen are forced upward and backward, the water rushes through the sieve formed by the hairs, the food is left behind, and is swallowed by the aid of the tongue.

Some of the baleen whales are said to attain a length of more than a hundred feet, and there are authentic records of examples measuring between 90 and 100 feet. The largest species of whale, and therefore the largest of all living animals and the largest creature that ever existed, so far as we

know, is the sulphur-bottom whale of the Pacific coast. One of these was 95 feet long and 39 feet in circumference, and weighed by calculation nearly 300,000 pounds. The sulphur-bottom whale is further distinguished by being the swiftest of all whales and one of the most difficult to approach; it glides over the surface with great rapidity, often displaying its entire length; and when it respire the immense volume of vapor which it throws up to a great height is evidence of its colossal proportions.—St. Nicholas.