

JAPAN AND RUSSIA CROWL

Probability of War Between These Powers Becomes Most Imminent.

MIKADO MAY THWART THE CZAR'S PLANS

Revenge the Motive for the Conflict that May End Russia's March Towards Power in the Far East.

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Editor's Note.—Mr. Rene van Bergen, appointed by the Japanese government in 1899 an attaché of the Foreign office of Japan. He became the confidant and friend of Japanese statesmen and gained a consummate knowledge of Oriental politics and the intimate life of the Japanese people, particularly the Japanese, Japanese and Russians. His articles on the Chinese problem in the leading American newspapers have made him well known. He is the author of "The Story of Japan," "The Story of China," "Japan's Quarrel with Russia," etc. Mr. van Bergen is now enroute to Japan in the interests of Collier's Weekly.

Every resident of Japan at the beginning of May, 1895, remembers the stupefaction with which the news was received that Russia was determined to rob the victor of the results of his victories. They do not bewail their fate, the Japanese, nor do they ventiliate their wrath in angry expressions. Their language does not lend itself to useless explosives. They prefer action. Revenge was a duty in the days of old Japan; these days are not so long ago but that the same feeling still prevails. The wrath, nursed in bitterness during the past six years, has lost nothing of its intensity, and the government, in permitting its cautious representatives to express their feelings in public, has shown unmistakably that it has determined to settle the question.

Marquis Ito cannot now retreat. Disappointed as is Japan's army, there always was a strong democratic feeling among the defenders of the country. Political topics are discussed openly in the barracks as well as in the clubs, and Japan has other wrongs to avenge. I heard a curious story at the time when the stupefaction over Russia's action was at its height. Some staff officers were taking dinner with me, and the topic uppermost in those men's minds was cautiously broached. Suppressed bitterness characterized every remark. Colonel K—, of the Yamato—the blood dragon's staff, struck his hand on the table and said: "That nation insulted our emperor!"

"Of course it was an insult," was the unanimous chorus. "Oh! but I do not refer to this time. Do you remember," he continued, "the time when the young czar (czarovich) was attacked at Kyoto? When Yenshi Sama heard of it he ordered an extra train for Osaka, that he might personally express his regret. The young czar had been taken on board of a Russian man-of-war, and when Yenshi Sama arrived, received him sitting and robed in a dressing gown."

I saw hands steal to the side where the sword's hilt was supposed to be, but not a word was said. The same far-away look appeared in every face. The incident was not discussed. Indeed, one after another arose and took leave, but I am sure that each of those officers registered a vow that that insult shall be wiped out in blood.

Revenge the Child of Patriotism. This intense feeling of revenge is not confined to Japan's fighting men. It is shared to an equal degree by all classes of people, and even the women form no exception. We people of the Occident cannot understand the intense love and devotion felt by every Japanese for his emperor. "Who is the greatest boon you desire, if fate should grant your wish?" asked a teacher of his class of boys, ranging between the ages of 13 and 15. For some moments they were silent in contemplation. Then, with a happy smile, one of the younger ones said, as if mentioning an irrefutable fact: "To die for our Yenshi Sama!" And the odd wish was echoed by every member of the class.

In spite of some illiteracy in Japan every youth has been imbued with his nation's grievances against the northern empire, power, and dating from long before the time when Russia despoiled the Shogun's weak government of the island of Karafuto or Saghalien. The red ball on a white field shows the risen sun—the rising sun no longer—as it is seen through the haze of the eastern horizon. When the white field makes way for ever-broadening rays it floats over an angry nation and predicts gore. Blood, blood only, can wipe out ancient insults and aggravations: it is called for to appease the souls of those brave souls who, rather than bear Japan's spoliation, committed suicide by the old horrible method of seppuku or hari-kiiri.

While the government has felt that Russia's silent eastward march in Asia forbids possible dire results for the empire's independence, the people do not share those anticipations. "The foot of an invader has ever trod our soil," they say proudly and the masses thoroughly believe in the impregnability of their country.

Japan's Physical Impregnability. There is no slight cause for this comfortable belief. The coast of Japan, notwithstanding its long shore line and numerous harbors, offers scant allurement to an invading army. There is very little beach; the bold crags and bluffs, overlooking every spot where a modern war vessel can ride at anchor, are encircled by strong fortifications defended by the most modern guns. Yedo bay, the most feasible light for invading purposes, needs careful navigation even by steamers of moderate draught. When torpedoes are planted, it is simply impregnable. When the war with China broke out a small steamer was selected to pilot merchant steamers up and down the bay. I remember perfectly the unexpected course made by this steamer, showing plainly the countless dangers besetting a hostile fleet, regardless of the care that may be used in feeling its way. No invading army could possibly land, and even if it succeeded in doing so the tide fields, readily submerged as they are, would aid materially in thwarting the advance and

in isolating the enemy. A successful invasion of Japan is simply impossible. This favorable geographical situation did not satisfy the government. Foreigners are invited to visit its coast for amusement, indeed, the Japanese prefer not being praised and keep every foreigner in absolute ignorance. Meandering about Shimoda, where Commander McDougal of the United States stop-of-war "Wyoming" once destroyed Choshu's incipient fleet, I approached a thicket, but was admonished not to proceed by a sentry, and upon turning about, perceived the glitter of other gun barrels, watchfully moving to and fro. I remembered the immense amounts paid to the retired firm of H. A. Brown & Co. who furnished the Krupp guns, or most of them, and I remembered also the unfriendly criticism of foreigners, abusing Japan's extravagance at a time when she was scarcely able to pay expenses. Those same foreigners are now enthusiastic in their encomiums.

Mikado a Factor of Power. Japan did not rest upon its laurels after it had picked the bubble of China's latent power. The action of the ill-assorted triple alliance aroused the nation to renewed exertions. There was not a dissentient voice when the government determined to devote the war indemnity to army and navy, principally to the latter. This action involved new burdens for the people, for the expenses of the war added materially to the nation's indebtedness. But while vast sums were expended for the country's defense every new enterprise was fostered and welcomed. With the operation of the new treaties, on the 19th of July, 1899, a serious effort was made to induce the investment of foreign capital. It was not successful, although two American corporations gave practical proof of their faith in Japan's integrity by pouring some millions of dollars into the country.

Japan's national credit is deservedly high; the development of its industries, added to the increased revenue derived from customs duties since tariff autonomy was conceded, enabled the government to make ample provisions in case of war. It was, of course, necessary to secure the consent of the national legislature. The lower house assented, but the peers demurred. Then Marquis Ito invoked the aid of a never-failing power, whose very majesty renders such an appeal undesirable, and applicable only in cases of direst necessity. The emperor ordered the peers before him and directed that the government's demands be granted. There was no discussion after this, and there was none. But it was to the country, and to those foreigners who know anything about Japan and the Japanese, an unmistakable signal that Marquis Ito looked for war in the near future. When Ito anticipated such an event it is likely to happen.

Military and Naval Excellence. There is, of course, a determination among Japan's statesmen to safeguard their country from any future encroachments by Russia, but, incidentally, they will try, and try hard, to strike a deadly blow at Russia's prestige. With a just cause and a free field, it is prepared to submit to the arbitration of the sword. Japan can spare 400,000 well-drilled soldiers, many of whom are veterans, without denuding her own defenses. This army is almost insignificant when compared to the host marching under the Black Eagle, but Russia can neither spare her best forces from their European headquarters, nor can she move them in time to prevent victories whose moral effect upon victors and vanquished may decide the fate of the two empires. Before, however, invasion of territory can take place, the predominance upon the ocean must be determined and Japan's future depends upon the early settlement of this question.

There is no doubt as to the superiority of Japan's fleet over that of Russia in far eastern waters. Since 1895 every noted dockyard in the United States and Europe has contributed with the most modern war vessels. England furnished six battleships—the most powerful fighting engines afloat. The Fuji, Yamashiro, Shikishima, Anahi, Hatsuse and the Matsushima, each of 12,500 to 15,000 tons and average sixteen knots. Of the armored cruisers, Blawick furnished the Izumo, Iwata and Yukiwa, each over 9,000 tons; St. Nazaire built the Azuma, Steintin the Yakumo. The United States constructed the protected cruisers, the Matsushima and Kasagi, each of 4,784 tons. This addition to Japan's navy, a powerful fleet in itself, is kept at the highest point of perfection. But, as Admiral Dewey said, the man behind the gun also deserves attention.

Pat Country Before Self. Callous to pain, indifferent to death, inspired by almost fanatical patriotism, the Japanese sailor is, if possible, even more daring than the soldier. Satsuma and Choshu, the two southern clans which caused so much trouble under the expiring Shogunate, furnish most of the personnel of the fleet. To these men fighting is life; fighting for their emperor is a boon and a godsend. In a naval battle Japan's fleet must be either victorious or destroyed; there can be no alternative. Neither officers nor men would care to live after losing their ships.

Russia is by no means unaware of these facts, and will beyond doubt go to any extreme to avoid the war. That is, the government may, and perhaps will, disavow the acts performed by its representatives in the east, but it will stop short when its prestige is threatened. That is Russia's tender point. But, while this policy has worked well and paid well in dealing with Great Britain, it is thoroughly understood by the leaders of Japan, and by no one more than by Ito. I do not think that that statesman would permit personal feelings to move his actions. Indeed, I know that Marquis Ito Hirobumi has no thought of self where his country is concerned. But think for one moment of what those personal feelings must be! After he had unveiled the New Japan in whose conception and execution he had been a master mechanic; after raising his emperor's glory to a pinnacle by the successful war with China, he was hurled down from the pedestal upon which, unconsciously, he had placed himself. Three months—a brief three months—after the close of the war, he was compelled to resign his trust into the hands of Okuma, because the people held him responsible for Russia's aggression. When he took the helm again, who can blame him if it was with the understanding that he should determine the day of reckoning and present the bill?

Habit of Acquiring Asiatic Territory. Japan will assume the offensive; it must have command of the ocean before it can begin operations in the enemy's territory. The beginning of the war will be confined to naval exploits, while Russia endeavors to play a waiting game, keeping its fleet under the powerful protection of Vladivostok and Port Arthur. Russia cannot afford to risk its fleet, especially with the odds against it, while by a waiting game it may hope to exhaust its antagonist. That it will endeavor to do so will be plain after considering the following facts, which will, at the same time, demonstrate why Japan must fight, and fight now.

Within the last fifty years Russia has annexed Amur province, Maritime Manchuria, the Tientsin province, the Kirghis steppes, the island of Saghalien, and a kord portion of Manchuria, besides other parts of Asiatic territory. It is most of this by mere diplomacy. It is necessary by this method to the utter disregard of obligations, whether verbal or in writing. A prominent diplomat defended his country's policy in these terms: "Honesty in these matters is a purely a Jewish term. It may make statements to you today in all good faith and be justified in pledging itself to be absolutely bound by them, my action being governed by a certain set of circumstances. Tomorrow I may learn that some of the circumstances which guided my judgment

generally have materially altered. Am I to be expected to abide by a pledge which was given yesterday? Certainly not!" Such a policy, which places Machiavelli's complete in the shade, may be a necessary time, but in the long run, and as soon as it is fully understood and appreciated, it will react upon its professors.

Just for Land Demands Costly Arms. Under different pleas, only differing in being more or less far-fetched, Russia has extended its frontiers until they cover the whole width of the old world. Such an acquisition, even although unaccompanied by war, cannot be gained without expense. In ten years, 1887-1897, Russia's public debt increased 27.4 per cent. On January 1, 1897, it amounted to 6,725,276,443 rubles (1 ruble=51.5 cents). Of this money only a very small fraction was spent upon public improvements except for such as were of strategic necessity. From 1896-1899 451,000,000 rubles were spent upon the navy, while in the budget of 1898 an extra sum of 20,000,000 rubles was set aside for the construction of new ships. As to her army, by the law of January 13, 1874, the whole male population of the Russian provinces, without distinction of rank, is liable to personal military service, from the beginning of the twenty-first to the end of the forty-third year. The first eighteen years are spent in the standing army, the last four in the militia.

Thus, while the army is estimated at between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 men—estimated, because Russian statistics are often purposely misleading—it involves an enormous expenditure not only in actual disbursements, but in depriving the country of its most vigorous producers. This, however, is utterly ignored by the military oligarchy which constitutes Russia's real government. This oligarchy is held together by common interests and forms a compact body, with well defined purposes. Its members boast: "We are not a commercial nation. The people have aspirations toward higher ideals than those of commercial gain. The motto exists for raising the sustenance of war."

Although illiteracy prevails among the masses, they are not devoid of a certain patriotism, which, as the nation retains its semi-Asiatic characteristics, is semi-religious in nature, and fostered by gross superstition in which the "Little Father" as head of the church occupies a central figure. The oligarchy, to ensure its continued existence, opposes every effort at enlightening; especially of late years more stringent measures have been taken to prevent the spread of liberal ideas.

Size No Criterion of Strength. Whatever may have been said with regard to the building of the Trans-Siberian railroad and with the twofold purpose of securing foreign capital and sympathy it has been demonstrated beyond peradventure that it was nothing but a strategic undertaking. Those who have examined the line, and there are many Americans among them competent to judge of railroad construction, agree that it is unfit even for moving armies and that almost the whole line in Asia will require reconstruction. The feverish haste with which it was laid was due to developments in the far east and the hope of overawing Japan may not have been the least powerful motive. As it is now it will be of very little aid in the transportation of large bodies of troops from the European boundaries of the empire.

"Al toujours maintenons notre prestige a tout hasard," said one of the foremost Russian diplomats to me. ("I have always maintained our prestige at any risk"), and Russia has benefited by that policy, if mere extension of territory conduces to a nation's greatness. But, unwisely by its very size—an immense extent of country occupied scantily, but chiefly by those in whom patriotism is extinct, owing to irreparable wrongs received at the hands of the government, the exiles of Siberia and their descendants—it is a factor in the national weakness in this size. The record of Russia's wars proves that its soldiers fight well; the discipline is strict, but the life of a soldier, provided he maintains subordination, is less humiliating than that to which the educated German submits. There is no question as to their courage, but it is altogether improbable that mere brute force, even when welded into one powerful machine, can cope with the same machine moved by intelligence and a passionate motive. In actual war the Russian officers have less experience than the Japanese. But, granted that knowledge and experience in the art of war are equal, which is certainly doing no injustice to the officers of the czar, the personal feeling prevailing among the Japanese officers and men must be counted as a factor in the results of a conflict. Individual Japanese may exceed in size and weight, but we, who have seen the Japanese in the hot sun of Corea's midsummer, as well as plowing their way through the snowdrifts of Manchuria, are aware that true patriotism acts as an invigorant and a source of hardness. Given an equal number, when I am strongly inclined to the belief that the Japanese would defeat the Russians.

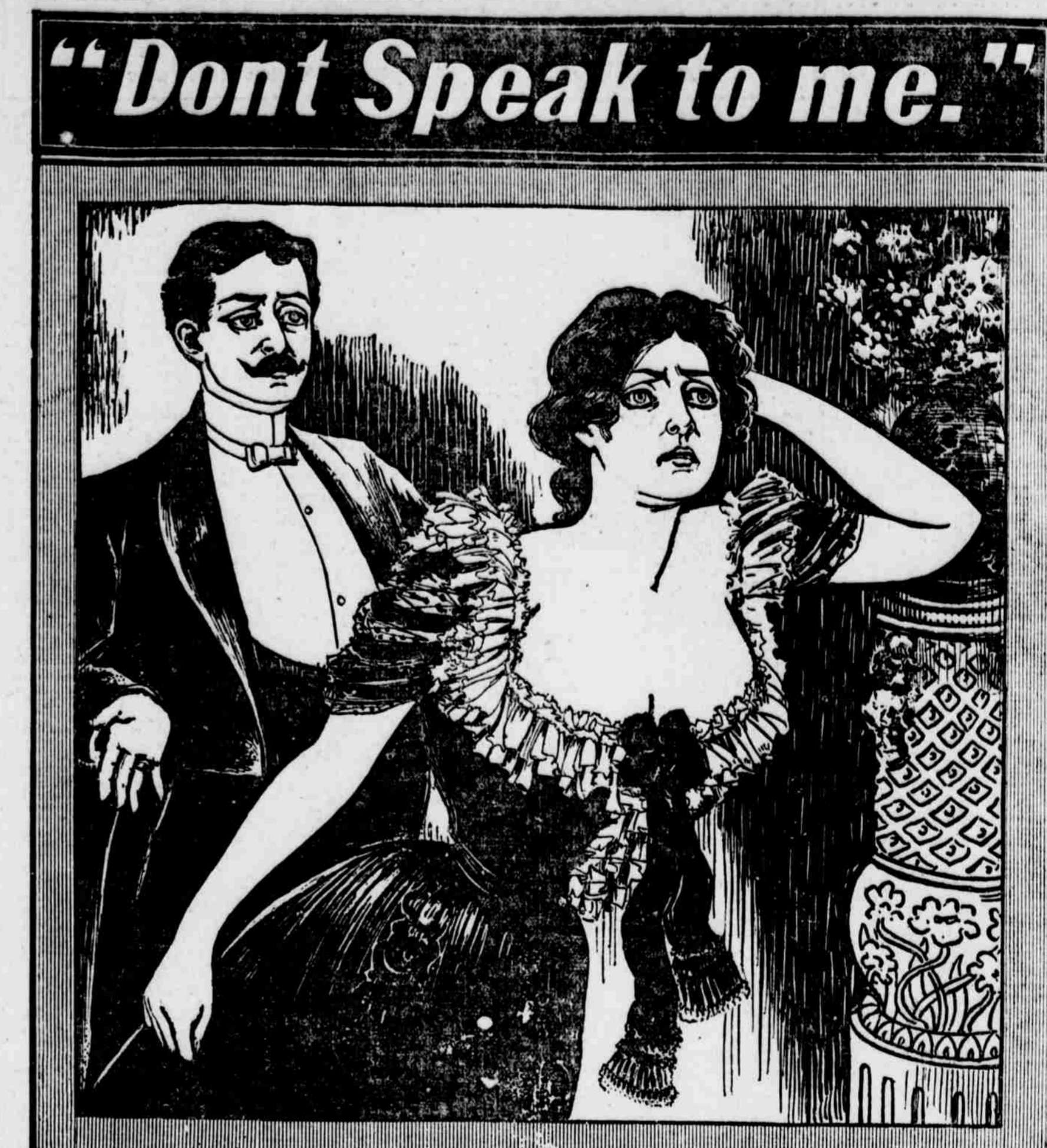
Japanese Naval Superiority. But, as said above, before Japan could transport her forces she must render Russia's fleet harmless. This fleet consists of five battleships, the three Admiral Gromov, the Sevastopol and the Poltava—each of 10,500 tons; the Navarin is 9,475 and the Sissoi Veliki 8,880 tons. They are of comparatively antiquated type and their armaments do not compare with those of Japan, while in tonnage they are infinitely inferior. Her armored cruisers—the Gromovoi, the Roessija and the Rurik—are superior in tonnage to those of Japan, while the Palmyra, Azova and the Dimitri Donkoi are inferior. Of protected cruisers she has two, the Admiral Koroff and the Rinda, with a combined tonnage of 5,500 tons—while Japan has of the same class the Chitose, the Kasagi, the Hashigata, the Itsu-Kushima, the Taka-Sago, the Matsushima, the Yoshino, the Naniwa, the Takachiho and the Akashi, altogether 41,481 tons. Of the smaller vessels only the torpedo boats and destroyers are likely to be used in attack and defense. Of the former Japan has sixty to Russia's twenty-two, while of destroyers Japan has eleven and Russia six. This, of course, represents Russia's available naval force in Oriental waters.

It is evident that the government of St. Petersburg has been on the alert to provide stores. It is known that large quantities of flour and provisions have been shipped from Pacific coast ports, but it is also apparent that the consumption of an army estimated at 120,000 men must be vast. It is of immense advantage to Japan that she is always within reach of her base of supplies. Another very serious point in her favor is that she has the benevolent neutrality of Great Britain and the United States, whereas Russia can count only upon the friendship of France. It is impossible to predict how far that friendship will proceed, but the sudden recall of the two most prominent members of the Russian legation at Paris seems to denote some dissatisfaction in that direction.

Russia's Prestige vs. Japan's Safety. As said before, it is certain that Russia will make serious endeavors to avert war at this time and it is probable that free hand in Corea will be held out as a peace offering. However flattering this may be to Japan's amour propre, it will decline, knowing full well the value of Russian promises and agreements. It will insist upon Russia's withdrawal from Manchuria and the surrender of Port Arthur into the protection of some friendly power. This is the least he can demand to free Japan from the ever-increasing phantom of Russia's aggression. The demand would ruin the czar's prestige in China and seriously injure his schemes upon the Middle Kingdom.

I do not believe that there is anyone beyond the confines of European Russia who knows the present disturbances are followed by the oligarchy in order to coerce the czar, or if they really emanate from the progressive element within the empire. The latter supposition, however, is the more probable, because Russia has nothing to gain and much to risk by forcing the czar to appeal to the good will of the spectator. On the other hand, the spirit of Russian institutions is being understood more and more, as is also the desire which prompts aggressions of no benefit to anybody.

Probable Scene of Conflict. Poor Corea, misnamed Land of the Morning Calm, may expect to be the first scene of the approaching struggle, perhaps before the supremacy of the ocean has been decided. The supremacy of Asia, and it may be safely asserted that general sympathy will be with Japan. The apparent disparity in strength, the scrupulous regard which Japan has shown for treaties, her evident desire to deserve her rank among the civilized powers and the progressive tendency of government and people—all this appeals to the good will of the spectator. On the other hand, the spirit of Russian institutions is being understood more and more, as is also the desire which prompts aggressions of no benefit to anybody.



Overwrought Nerves.

As soon as a woman's nerves become excited by some feminine disorder, she loses control of her speech. She has no patience with anybody or anything. The ones she loves the best are the ones to whom she talks the meanest. Trifles light as air drive her almost frantic. She is worse than crazy, because she knows what she is doing and can't help it. She doesn't have hysteria and doesn't have fainting spells. She is nervous, horribly nervous. Does she get sympathy? Oh, yes, she gets sympathy for awhile, but she acts so outrageously that everybody keeps out of her way as much as possible. After a while they begin to think she's malicious and could do better if she tried real hard. She has turned her best friends against her.

This woman is sick with about the most discouraging sickness women can have, and there is a person who understands her case better than any one else in the world. That person is Mrs. Pinkham. The nervousness comes from some derangement of the feminine organs, and is constantly fed and made worse by the constantly developing disease. Female diseases never get better of themselves. They must have proper treatment. Ordinary physicians do not know how to grapple with these diseases of women. Out of the hundreds of thousands of women Mrs. Pinkham has cured, not one in five hundred tried her advice or her medicine until they had exhausted the skill of their own physician, sometimes of several physicians.

Mrs. Pinkham's address is Lynn, Mass. Her advice is prompt and free to all suffering women. You may not know that your nervousness comes from female troubles. Your doctor may not know it. He may tell you it does not; but does he cure you? Does he help you any? Mrs. Pinkham will tell you the truth about yourself, and you'll believe her. Don't throw your life's happiness away and make yourself unlovable, when a little diligent heed to Mrs. Pinkham's advice will drive away your nervousness by removing the cause of your trouble. Read carefully the letters from women Mrs. Pinkham has helped.

After thirty years of success in curing women's ills, can you not believe it worth while to test the virtues of

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound?

\$5000 REWARD

Owing to the fact that some skeptical people have from time to time questioned the genuineness of the testimonial letters we are constantly publishing, we have deposited with the National City Bank, Mass., \$5,000, which will be paid to any person who can show that the above testimonials are not genuine, or were published before obtaining the writers' special permission.—LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO., Lynn, Mass.

Heartie⁺ Stories from Cured Women.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I feel it my duty to write and tell you of the benefit I have received from your wonderful remedies.

"Before taking your Vegetable Compound I was a misery to myself and every one around me. I never laid my aching head upon my pillow without wishing I could die. "I suffered terrible pain in my back, head, and right side, was very nervous, would cry for hours. Menstrues would appear sometimes in two weeks, then again not for three and four months. I was so tired and weak, could not sleep nights, sharp pains would dart through my heart that would almost cause me to fall. I was so poor and white that my folks thought I was going to die. My mother coaxed me to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I had no faith in it, but to please her I did so. The first bottle helped me so much that I continued its use. I am now well and weigh more than I ever did in my life. "Your remedies deserve the highest praise."—MRS. WINIFRED ALLENDER, Farmington, Ill.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—It gives me great pleasure to tell you how much your Vegetable Compound has done for me. I had been a sufferer for years with female trouble. I could neither read nor sew but a few minutes at a time without suffering terribly with my head. My back and kidneys also troubled me all the time. "I was advised by a friend to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I had no faith in it, but decided to try it. After using one bottle I felt so much better that I continued its use, and by the time I had taken six bottles I was cured. There is no other medicine for me. I recommend it to all my friends."—MRS. SARAH SWODER, 103 West St., La Porte, Ind.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I am very grateful to you for your kindness and the interest you have taken in me, and truly believe your medicines and advice are worth more to a woman than all the doctors in the world. For years I had female troubles and did nothing for them. Of course, I became no better and finally broke down entirely. My troubles began with inflammation and hemorrhages from the kidneys, then inflammation, congestion and falling of the womb, and inflammation of ovaries. I underwent local treatment every day for some time; then after nearly two months the doctor gave me permission to go back to work. I went back, but in less than a week was compelled to give up and go to bed. On breaking down the second time I decided to try your medicines and their medicine alone and try your remedies. Before the first bottle was gone I felt the effects of it. Three bottles of the Compound and a package of the Sassafras Wash did me more good than all the doctors' treatments and medicine. The first remark that greets me now when I go to any place is, 'How much better you look,' and you may be sure I never hesitate to tell the cause of my health. I have gained twelve pounds during the last two months and am better in every way. Thanks for your kind attention and advice."—MRS. E. J. GOODEN, Ackley, Iowa.

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will maintain the same indolent history which has characterized their history for the last seven years. It is strange how a corrupt government does not only destroy the prosperity of a people, but saps its very vitality. The prediction made over thirty years ago by the late William H. Seward that the Pacific will be the scene of the world's struggles and efforts will be fully verified. RENE VAN BERGEN. The editor of the Fordville, Ky. Miscellaneous writes as a postscript to a business letter: "I was cured of kidney trouble by taking Foley's Kidney Cure. Take nothing else."