DESPONDENCY IN RUSSIA

Russians Now Recognize That Japanese are Formidable.

FALLS BACK TO HARBIN.

A cablegram from the New York World's correspondent in Berlin says Viceroy Alexieff has determined to fall back to Harbin, leaving Port Arthur to work out its own salvation. Alexieff takes this step in view of the utter impossibility of maintaining and protecting a line of communication 1,500 miles long, and as vulnerable to attack as the railway through Manchuria.

The Viceroy is fully confident that Port Arthur can withstand a long siege. He is now fortifying Harbin, and will use it as the base of a great army.

The announcement that Harbin, and not the "impregnable" Port Arthur, will be the base of future operations has been received with consternation in Russian military circles. It has caused a sensation more painful than the calamities which have befallen the Russian fleet as more clearly than any event that has occurred it reveals the formidable nature of the enemy to whom Russia is opposed. The feeling of alarm and despondency grows deeper at St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The police have good reasons to believe that the revolutionaries are taking part in the so-called patriotic manifestations.

RUSSIANS DRIVEN BACK.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Telegraph mentions a report that despite official assurances that everything is quiet, an outpost engagement has occurred on the Yalu River, resulting in the Russian advance guards being driven back. The losses are estimated at 2,500. It is not clear whether this figure means those who fell on the Yalu or the entire Russian losses since the commencement of the war.

There have been for days ugly rumors of Russian mishaps on land.

NO SHIPS DAMAGED.

The reports from various quarters saying that Admiral Togo's fleet was partly crippled in the operations at Port Arthur are unfounded, says a Tokio despatch. It was unnecessary to send a single large ship to Sasebo for repairs. Two torpedo destroyers have been damaged, but not in fighting. The Akebono in attempting to coal from a collier during a storm collided with the Oboro, disabling her machinery. Both were sent to Sasebo for repairs, which will be completed soon. The armored cruiser Chiyodo has been docked at Sasebo and her bottom cleaned. The battleship Shikishima, which was injured on the eve of war, was repaired in time to participate in Admiral Togo's attack on Port Arthur. It was generally thought that the Shikishima was still docked at Sasebo and unable to participate in the attack on Port Arthur.

ARMY OF ONLY 70,000?

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Paris Temps claim to have definite information that the Russian army in the Far East does not exceed 70,000. Feverish efforts are being made to draft heavy reinforcements to the front, but even the War Office does not expect to get them there before two months.

JAPANESE HANGED.

A despatch received at St. Petersburg from Harbin, dated Feb. 20, says the railroad is in working order, and that the Japanese who attempted to blow up the bridge over the Sungari River have been hanged. Bands of chunchus (bandits) have been observed under Japanese leadership, and are being pursued. Almost all the civilian inhabitants of Harbin have left, and the remainder of the population is quiet. The movement of troops is causing heavy traffic on the railroad. All the Japanese laborers on the railroad have fled, and the Chinese laborers have returned to work after their New Year celebrations.

EMBEZZLED THE MONEY.

The St. Petersburg official classes are discussing reports of the internal conditions of Russia, which is causing the Government anxiety. It is stated that the Czar has summoned the provincial governors to St. Petersburg to devise strong measures for coping successfully in concert with the manifestations of discontent. There is feverish activity in all departments, but everywhere it is felt and regretted that there is no master mind at present to conduct affairs. The despatch of troops to the Far East is being complicated by the transportation of medical appliances and war material, none of which was ready at the outbreak of the war. The publication of the news that some of the Imperial Japanese Princes were on board the warships at the attack on Port Arthur has profoundly impressed the Russians. It is expected that Grand Dukes Boris and Andrew, sans of Grand Duke Vladimir, will be despatched to Manchuria. There are alarming reports of the embezzlement of large sums of money that were allotted for the victualing of Port Arthur and for providing the troops with ammunition and materials.

WILL LAND MARINES.

A despatch to the London Morning Post from Chefoo says that an American squadron is expected to arrive there shortly. The despatch adds that there is a possibility of trouble with Germany, who claims exclusive rights in the Province of Shantung. It is stated that the Americans intend to land marines at Chefoo.

DELAYED BY STORMS.

Most of the American and European correspondents are still at Tokio awaiting permission to join the army. Only personal permits signed by M. Terauchi, Minister of War, will be recognized. None has yet been issued. The censorship has not been relaxed. The reports of Russian movements in Northern Corea continue to be conflicting, but the most reliable information indicates that none except scouts have crossed the Yalu River. Heavy snowstorms have been frequent in Corea for the last few days, and these are doubtless delaying operations.

LAKE BAIKAL DISASTER.

According to a despatch received at Vienna, the Russions have met with another disaster on Lake Baikal. Two regiments of Russian pioneers and one of railway guards have been drowned. It is supposed the ice gave way under the train and that all went to the bottom.

RUSSIA TO FRANCE.

M. Peiletan, French Minister of Marine, has received the following despatch from Vice-Admiral Avellan, head of the Russian Admiralty Department:—"Deeply affected by the fraternal reception, touching care and noble, chivalrous conduct of the whole crew of the French cruiser Pascal towards the Russian officers and sailors belonging to the ill-fated ships of the Imperial fleet, the Variag and Korietz, sunk in the harbor of Chemulpo, Feb. 9, I beg you to accept and transmit to the glorious navy of France our warm feelings of gratitude and admiration."

WHERE ARE THE JAPS?

Major-Gen. Pflug, Admiral Alexieff's chief of staff, telegraphs to St. Petersburg that scouts of the Tchita regiment report from Tserchu that they have not encountered any Japanese. It is also stated that there are no Japanese at Ping-Yang. The Corean populace is indifferent towards the Russians. The ice in the middle of the Yalu River is less strong than that near the banks. The natives say that it will begin to drift if a high tide occurs within five days. The sea to the west of the Liao-Tung Peninsula is covered with ice for a distance of two versts. The enemy's vessels have not been seen lately. There have been no further attempts to destroy the railroad.

ATTITUDE OF CHINESE.

Gen. Ma telegraphs that it is daily becoming more difficult to prevent the Chinese troops at San-Min-Ting from crossing the line and engaging the Russians who are guarding the railway.

A RUSSIAN PROCLAMATION.

A St. Petersburg despatch says: An official proclamgtion, explaining the unpreparedness of Russia for war, and the necessity for the exercise of patience by her people, has been issued here. It is as follows:

"Eight days have not elapsed since all Russia was shaken with profound indignation against an enemy who suddenly broke off negotiations, and by a treacherous attack, endeavored to obtain an easy success in a war long desired. The Russian nation, with natural impatience, desires prompt vengeance, and awaits, feverishly, news from the Far East.

"The utility and strength of the Russian people leave no room for doubt that Japan will receive the chastisement she deserves for her treachery and provacation to war at a time when our beloved sovereign desired to maintain peace among the nations. The conditions under which hostilities are being carried on compel us to await with patience news of the success of our troops, which cannot occur before decisive actions are fought by the Russian army.

"The distance of the territory and the desire of the Emperor to maintain peace were the causes of the impossibility of more complete and earlier preparations for war. Much time is now necessary, in order to strike at Japan blows worthy of the dignity anh might of Russia, and, while sparing as much as possible the shedding of blood of her children, to inflict just chastisement upon the nation which has provoked the struggle, Russia must await the event in patience, being sure that our army will avenge an hundredfold that provocation.

"Operations on land must not be expected for some time yet, and we cannot obtain early news from the theatre of war. The useless shedding of blood is unworthy the greatness and power of Russia.

"Our country displays such unity and desire for self-sacrifices on behalf of the national cause that all true news from the scene of hostilities will be immediate to the entire nation."

TO REJOIN THE FLEET.

The repairs to the Russian warships damaged during the bombardment of Feb. 9 are rapidly proceeding at Port Arthur. The Czarevitch, Retvizan, and Pallada will soon rejoin the fleet. The work is being carried on with the aid of calssons. The mishap was not so great as it might have been.

CZAR IS ILL.

A report, which came by way of Vienna, is in circulation in London that the Czar's mental depression on account of the war amounts to illness.

DISORDER AT PORT ARTHUR.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister at London, confirms the reports of disorder at Port Arthur. Manchurian bandits and Russian soldiers are pillaging everywhere, and shopkeepers have armed to protect themselves. Japanese refugees who have arrived on the British steamship Wenchow at Cheefoo say that they were frequently left without food by the Russians, and that the Wenchow's signals for water were disregarded.

The Japanese on their way from Harbin to Port Arthur were pillaged and left penniless.

TO TAKE COMMAND.

The French Foreign Office has received a despatch from St. Petersburg announcing that Gen. Kroupatkin, Minister of War, has been appointed to the supreme military command in the Far East.

BRITISH FIRED ON.

The British steamer Hsi-Ping, from Ching-Wan-tao, to Shanghai, reports that she was fired upon by a Russian warship and the forts while taking shelter in the outer roads of Port Arthur, and was then ordered to Dalny and detained there four days, in spite of constant protests.

LANDING OF JAPANESE.

The German Admiralty has received confirmation of the reports that Japanese landing operations on a vast scale are taking place on both of Corea's northern coasts, and it is assumed by the German authorities that Japan will be ready by early Spring for a forward land movement supported by properly equipped bases. Possibly 250,000 (according to the estimates made at the German Admiralty) will be in the field before a collision takes place with the Russians in force.

JAPANESE SAILORS.

One great advantage the Japanese navy has of inestimable value. There are three great units—the battleship squadron, the armored cruiser squadron and the cruiser squadron. For months each squadron has been manoeuvring by itself, with frequent grand manoeuvres embracing the entire navy. At the naval station at Takeshiki, in Tsushima, 20 torpedo vessels have been practising in one flotilla. The result is that every officer of every vessel knows not only what his own ship will do under any given circumstances, but also what every other ship will do. That intricate and valuable bit of naval information, the helm angle of each ship, is a matter of common knowledge. They can manoeuvre as well in the dark as in the light, and if a ship is transferred from one squadron to another she but comes back to old mates, who know her well, and no new drill is necessary to fit her to the new conditions.

VLADIVOSTOCK SQUADRON.

Viceroy Alexieff has communicated to the Czar the report of Capt Reitzenstein, who is in command of the Russian cruiser division, dealing with the destruction of the Japanese merchant steamer Nakanoura, off the north-western coast of Japan, and the capture of forty-one of her crew.

Capt. Reitzenstein, who is also acting commodore of the Vladivostock squadron, says that a small Japanese coaster was also approached, but the violent squall made it impossible to capture the crew, and that, therefore, the coaster was not sunk. Heavy weather, he says, prevented him following the coast, and the cruiser squadron made for Chestakoff, fleeing before the tempest to the Corean coast. Owing to the storm, the squadron was only able to accomplish five knots per hour. Heavy seas were shipped, and the cruisers and the guns were coated with ice. Two violent gales were encountered within three days.

BLACK SEA FLEET.

It is officially denied that Russia has been asked permission for her Black Sea fleet to pass through the Dardanelles. The fleet is being prepared for eventualities, which the Turkish attitude in the Balkans may develop

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese, and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

MARKETS OF WORLD.

Toronto, Feb. 23.—Wheat—The market for Ontario grades continues very strong, with offerings restricted. No. 2 white and red Winter are quoted at 88 to 89c low freights to millers. No. 2 Spring steady at 85c east, and No. 2 goose at 77c. Manitoba wheat is firm. At upper lake ports No. 1 Northern is quoted at 97c, No. 2 Northern at 94c, and No. 3 Northern at 91c. For grinding in transit quotations are 9c higher than above.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices steady. No. 2 white quoted at 31c north and west, and at 31½c middle freights. No. 1 white quoted at 32¼ to 32½c east, and No. 2 at 32c east.

Barley—The market is quiet, with the prices steady. No. 2 quoted at 44 to 45c middle freights; No. 3 extra at 42 to 43c, and No. 3 at 41c middle freights.

Peas—The market is steady, with No. 2 quoted at 63c west and 64c east.

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. No. 3 American yellow quoted at 53c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 52c. Canadian corn, 43½ to 44c on track, Toronto, and 37½ to 38c west.

Rye—The market is firm, with No. 2 quoted at 55c east and west.

Buckwheat—The market is unchanged, with demand good. No. 2 quoted at 49c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are firm at $3.30 to $3.35 middle freights, in buyers' sacks, f or export. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade quoted at $4 to $4.25 in bbls. Manitoba flours are unchanged. No. 1 patent, $4.90 to $5; No. 2 patents, $4.60 to $4.70, and strong bakers', $4.50 to $4.60 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed—Bran steady at $17 to $17.50, and shorts at $18.50 here. At outside points bran is quoted at $16 and shorts at $17.50. Manitoba bran in sacks, $20 and shorts at $21 here.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Trade here is quiet, with with prices steady at $2 to $2.50 per bbl. for the best stock.

Dried apples—The demand is small, and prices are unchanged at 4 to 4½c per lb. Evaporated apples, 6c per lb.

Beans—Trade is dull and prices steady. Prime beans are quoted at $1.30 to $1.50 per bushel.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 26 to 32c, according to quality.

Honey—The market is firm at 6½ to 7½c per lb. for bulk, and at $1.25 to $2 for comb.

Hay—The market is quiet, with little or none coming in. Prices are nominal in consequence with No. 1 quoted around $9 on track here.

Straw—The market is dull without offerings and prices nominal around $5.50 on track here.

Potatoes—The market is firm, with offerings limited. Choice cars are quoted at $5 to 87c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 75 to 80c per bag.

Poultry—Very little coming forward, and the market is firm. Chickens, 12 to 14c per lb. Turkeys are quoted at 14 to 16c per lb. and geese at 10 to 11c per lb., ducks at 12 to 13c per per lb. or $1.50 to $1.75 per pair; fowls, 8 to 10c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is quiet, with prices as a rule unchanged. Good demand for choice creamery. We quote:—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 17c; choice large rolls, 15½ to 16½c; selected dairy tubs, 16 to 16½c; medium and low grades, 13 to 14c; creamery prints, 20½ to 22c; solids, 19 to 20c.

Eggs—Stocks are restricted. We quote:—Strictly new laid, 35 to 40c; selected cold storage, 32c; limed, 31 to 32c per dozen.

Cheese—Trade is inactive at unchanged prices. We quote:—Finest September's 10¾ to 11c; seconds, 10 to 10½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with fair offerings. Car lots sold at $5.90 to $6 delivered here. Corn meats are in fair demand. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 8 to 8½c per lb. in case lots. Mess pork, $16; do., short cut, $18.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12½c; do., heavy, 11½ to 12c; rolls, 10c; shoulders, 9½c; backs, 13 to 13½c; breakfast bacon, 13c.

Lard—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. We quote:—Tierces, 7¾c; tubs, 8c; pails, 8¼c; compound 7 to 7½c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Feb. 23.—Manitoba wheat was firmly held at recent figures, viz.: 88c for No. 3 Northern and 87½c for No. 2. Quotations are 38½c for No. 2 in store carloads. No. 3 range from ½ to 1c below these figures; No. 2 oats, low freights west, for export, 31½c; No. 2 peas, 64½c; rye, 52c; No. 2 barley, 43½c; No. 3 extra barley, 42½c; No. 3, 41½c. Flour—patents are $5.10; strong bakers', $4.80; Winter wheat patents, $4.60 to $4.75; straight rollers, in bags, $2 to $2.10, and extras in bags, $1.65 to $1.75. Feed—Bran and shorts are firm at the advance; Manitoba bran in bags, $19 to $20; shorts, $21 per ton; Ontario bran, in bulk, $17 to $17.50; shorts, $19.50 to $20; mouillie, $26 to $27 per ton as to quality. Rolled oats—The market holds very firm, $2.15 being asked for bags and $4.50 for barrles, on track. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $18 to $18.50; light short cut, $17.50 to $18; American short cut clear, $17 to $17.50; American fat backs, $18 to $18.50; compound lard, 6c; Canadian lard 8½ to 9c; kettle rendered, 10½c; hams, 11½ to 13c; bacon 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7.75; country dressed hogs, $6.75 to $7; live hogs, $5.50. Eggs—New laid, 40c; candled selected, 34 to 35c; limed 30 to 32c; refrigerator 30c. Butter—Winter creamery, 19 to 20c; full grass, 21c; Western dairy 15 to 15½c; rolls, 16 to 17c. Cheese—Ontario, 11 to 11½c; Townships 10½ to 10¾c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Milwaukee, Feb. 23.—Wheat—1c higher; No. 1 Northern, 98 to 99c No. 2 Northern, 93 to 96c; July, 89¾ to 89⅞c. Rye—½c higher; No. 1 71 to 72c. Barley—Firm; No. 2 63c; sample, 40 to 60c. Corn—Firm No. 3, 45 to 45½c; May, 55¾ to 55½c.

Minneapolis, Feb. 23.—Wheat—May, 96¾ to 96½c; July, 96½c; September, 86½c; on track, No. 1 hard, 98½c No. 1 Northern, 97½c; No. 2 Northern, 94c; No. 3 Northern, 89 to 90½c. Flour—First patents, $4.90; first clears, $3.60 to $3.70; second clears, $2.60 to $2.70. Bran—In bulk, $15 to $15.25.

Buffalo, Feb. 23.—Flour—Firm Wheat—Spring quiet; No. 1 Northern, Chicago, c.i.f., $1.02; Winter none in market. Corn—Strong; No 2 yellow, 52¾c; No. 2 corn, 51½ to 51½c. Oats—Quiet; No. 2 white 48½c; No. 2 mixed, 47c. Barley—Western in store, 55 to 65c.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Feb. 23.—There was practically no cattle market again to-day and for the first time the wholesale butchers are beginning to complain of the scarcity of butchers' beef cattle.

Export, heavy	$4 60 to $4 65	
Bulls, export, heavy, cwt.	3 75	4 00
do light	3 00	3 75
Feeders, 800 lbs. and upwards	3 00	3 25
Short keep, 1,100 lbs	4 00	
Stockers, 400 to 800 lbs.	2 50	3 12
do 900 lb.	2 75	3 50
Butchers' cattle, choice	3 65	4 00
do medium	3 00	3 50
do picked	4 25	4 30
do bulls	2 75	3 00
do rough	2 50	2 60
Light stock bulls, cwt.	2 25	2 50
Milch cows	30 00	65 00
Hogs, best	4 75	
do light	4 50	
Sheep, export, cwt.	3 50	4 00
Lambs	4 60	5 60
Bucks	2 50	3 25
Culls, each	3 50	4 00
Calves	5 50	6 50

BLOWN TO FRAGMENTS.

Drying Dynamite Beside the Stove.

A Port Arthur despatch says George Karis, Polander, a cook in the Pigeon River lumber camps since last December, met with a terrible death in Camp No. 7 on Monday morning. The loggers wanted dynamite, so Karis offered to dry some. As the men were leaving the shanty they saw him placing eighteen sticks of dynamite around the stove. They warned him to be careful, but he explained that he knew what he was doing. The choppers had only gone a short distance from the shanty when they heard a terrible explosion, and, running back to the scene, found the shanty a total wreck. Spots of blood splattered the remnants of the building, while the body was blown into fragments.

ACCIDENT TO THE KING.

Fell While Inspecting Warship and Injured His Leg.

A Portsmouth despatch says:—While King Edward was inspecting the cruiser Cumberland here on Saturday he stepped on a watertight door and fell, slightly injuring his leg. When he subsequently went to the naval barracks a gymnasium chair was provided to enable him to preside at a dinner party this evening.

BOMB THROWN AT PRIEST.

Fatal Outrage in Baku Church During Prayers.

A despatch from Baku, Russian Trans-Caucasia, says:—During a patriotic service in the Armenian Church here on Monday, just as the clergy had ended chanting a Te Deum and praying for the success of the Russian arms, a bomb was thrown at the officiating priest. Two persons were killed and several injured. After the excitement had been allayed the congregation marched in procession to the residence of the Governor, carrying the Czar's portrait, and presented the Governor with a patriotic address and $500 for the families of the victims of the outrage.