FIRST SHOTS ON LAND

Japanese Reports Say Russians Were Compelled to Retire.

SHOTS BETWEEN OUTPOSTS.

A London despatch says:—It is now accepted that the first shots of the land campaign wete fired in Northern Corea, near the gates of Ping-Yang, Sunday morning. The Russians claim that the Japanese were defeated, and the Japanese say that the Russians retreated. It was a normal affair between outposts.

Japan has now a great force in Northern Corea. Eighty thousand men from Seoul gnd forty thousand men from Gensan are reported to have passed north within a fortnight towards Ping-Yang.

The Russian military position is that infantry have occupied a portion of the Seoul-Pekin road between Liao-Yang, on the Manchurian Railway, and the Yalp River. The Russian front and flanks are strongly supported. The right flank is at Tatungku, near the Bay of Corea, and the left near Wiju. Russian cavalry have crossed the Yalu River between Antung and Yongampho. Cossack scouts have advanced along the caravan routes in touch with Ping-Yang.

CHINESE MOVING.

An official despatch, dated Saturday, from Major-General Pflug, Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, says: "The night of Feb. 27 passed quietly at Port Arthur. Reports are coming in of movements of Chinese troops west of the Liao River, and according to rumors, about 10,000 Chinese troops, under General Ma, are on the road between Tungchu and Chaojan. The military guard on the Sinmintu Railway has been reinforced, from 40 to 50 Chinese soldiers having been placed at each place.

"Our mounted troops have entered Corea, and the attitude of the population is friendly towards us."

HORSES FOR JAPS.

A shipment of 600 horses was about to be loaded into a steamer at Liban, Russia, when it was stopped by the authorities. The horses are believed to have been bought by British agents for Japan.

RUSHING TROOPS FORWARD.

A despatch from St. Petersburg to Paris says that every day and night 5,000 men are traveling toward Port Arthur. The garrison at that point is said now to number 30,000.

According to the most recent intelligence received in military circles the Russian infantry are occupying the Seoul-Pekin road between Liao-Yang (midway between Mukden and New-Chwang) and the Yalu River.

Russian cavalry forces have crossed the Yalu in the neighborhood of Antung, and occupied the road toward Suchen. Russian detachments have reached a point thirty-five miles north of Ping-Yang. Cossack scouts have advanced along the caravan routes to a point ten miles east of Ping-Yang.

FOR RED CROSS WORK.

The newspapers of St. Petersburg continue to print full accounts of the contributions to the Red Cross Society, which are pouring in from all parts of Russia. The Armenian churches here want to bear the expense of twenty-five beds, and the Finnish Society of 100 beds, while the Poutiloff Works have offered to supply an entire hospital train.

Over 200,000 Osetines from the Caucasus have volunteered for service.

The painter Vereschagin is going to the front in a few days to make sketches.

COREANS TO FIGHT.

The Corean Government has decided to order the Corean troops to join the Japanese forces in the field. The port of Wiju was opened to foreign trade on Thursday night. The limitations to be placed on trade and other matters will be passed later. The action necessitates a harbor. Yongampho has been decided on.

TRANSPORTS ON THE MOVE.

The most important news from the seat of war, if it is reliable, is that a large fleet of transports is off Port Arthur preparing to disembark an army to besiege that place. Unofficial telegrams from St. Petersburg indicate that such a development is fully expected there.

Bennett Burleigh, a correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, has gone from Japan to Shanghai, apparently to avoid the Japanese censorship. He cables thence that a large number of transports have returned to Nagasaki, where they are busily embarking more troops for the vicinity of Dalny. Over forty transports have sailed since Feb. 10.

A still larger embarkation is proceeding from Ujina, near Hiroshima. The latter place, and not Kioto, will be the army and navy headquarters during the war. Over 36 big transports are now at Ujini, which is the principal station for the embarkation of troops, and an enormous mass of soldiers has been detrained there.

Dalny is being evacuated. The Russians boast that they have mines at the breakwater docks and railway sidings to prevent the Japanese from using them.

There are only five months' supplies at Port Arthur. The Russians say they mean to defend Port Arthur and to fall back with the rest of their troops from Dalny to the Yalu River, and if pressed, upon Harbin.

MUST NOT AID RUSSIANS.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says it is reported that Japan has notified China that it will be a breach of neutrality if the Chinese in Manchuria assist the Russians in preserving order during the war, and has warned China to refrain from interfering with the Chunichuses or bandits.

LIMITING THE AREA.

The Berlin Politsche correspondent, evidently inspired, says that the action of the powers concerning the neutralization of China initiated by the United States may now be considered in all respects completed. In consequence of this action, each power interested in the Far East sent separate communications to the belligerent Governments in the sense of the United States' suggestion, with the result that while an informal pact was made, yet a species of international agreement with morally binding force has come into existence.

MARCHING ON KIRIN

There are two or three reports indicating that the Japanese are now turning their attention to Vladivostock. The New-Chwang correspondent of the London Daily Mail says that Rev. W. H. Gillespie, a missionary, has arrived at New-Chwang from Kwang-Chentz. He states that the Japanese have landed at Possiet Bay, and advanced to Hun-Chung. The Russian garrison fled. The Japanese are marching on Kirin, from which place the women and civilians are fleeing in panic.

Assuming that Mr. Gillespie is accurately informed, the importance of the news he brings does not need emphasizing. It would seem that the Japanese are thus venturing upon what appears to be an immensely difficult undertaking, that is to reach Kirin, which is an important town of Manchuria, some 150 miles north of the Corean, frontier, by a long march through a formidable country and through mountains in weather of almost Arctic severity. It is suggested that the apparent impossibility of such an enterprise led the Russians to leave the route unguarded. Whether a march to Kirin is contemplated or not the Japanese occupation of Possiet Bay, if true, furnishes them an admirable base for operating against Vladivostock, which is ninety miles distant.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

There are renewed reports of the sufferings of the troops from the cold in Siberia. It is asserted that numbers attempting to cross Lake Baikal on foot have been frozen to death, while others have had their extremities frozen.

RUSSIANS BURN VILLAGE.

A despatch to the London Standard, from Tien-Tsin, says that according to native reports the Russians took terrible vengeance on the villagers near the Sungari River after the attempt to wreck the railway bridge spanning that stream. The troops burned a large village and massacred the inhabitants, including the women.

WHAT PEKIN HEARS.

Private advices from New-Chwang confirm the reports of the ill-treatment of Japanese refugees at the hands of the Russians while they were journeying through Manchuria, and declare, moreover, that some of the refugees were without doubt cruelly murdered.

KATSURA INTERVIEWED.

The Tokio correspondent of the London Standard cables an interview he had with Prime Minister Katsura who reiterated Japan's reluctance to appeal to arms. The Russian designs, however, left her no choice, and she is now resolved to strike hard and fast, if only that the agony might be as brief as possible. The value of the British alliance, the Prime Minister added, was fully recognized. The knowledge that the Japanese had the sympathy of Great Britain and the moral support of the neutral powers would go far to sustain them in the struggle. They did not aim at obtaining fresh territory, but solely sought to remove a constant menace to freedom and tranquility of East Asia, and to secure a lasting peace. Japan was confident that she would achieve this.

TO OPERATE IN COREA.

According to information received by well-in-formed military men at St. Petersburg, the Russian army which is intended to operate in Corea will consist of an advance van-guard of two regiments of Siberian sharpshooters, a vanguard of 16 regiments of infantry, with 96 quick-firing guns, three batteries of mountain guns and a corresponding force of cavalry. The main body will consist of 40 regiments, including Cossack cavalry, with 300 guns. It is added that no important military operations will be possible before the melting of the ice, and that the present operations will be confined to necessary preparations.

RUSSIA'S SACRED IMAGE.

The most sacred image in Russia has been sent to St. Petersburg, and it will be taken later to the Far East with the army. This image is a representation of the Virgin appearing to Saint Sergius, and is always kept at the Troitzke monastery. It is about one foot square, and is covered with precious stones. The image has a remarkable history. It accompanied Alexis, Peter the Great, and Alexander I. on all their campaigns. A silver tablet attached to it enumerates the battles at which the image was present.

HARASSING RUSSIANS.

The Chefoo correspondent of the London Daily Mail confirms the reports that the Chinese are harassing the Russians in South-west Manchuria. He says that 5,000 Russian troops moved from Mukden to Sin-Min-Ting. Their methods on the march intensified the public hatred of them. Preparations are being made in the villages to cut off small bodies of Russians. There is plenty of ammunition and plenty of volunteers. Rich people are supplying the money necessary. Ten thousand men have already enrolled with the intention of carrying on a guerilla warfare. It is clear that the Japanese expect much assistance from the natives.

JAPS AT PING-YANG.

Two and one-half divisions of the Japanese army, a total of 40,000 men, have landed at Chemulpo. The Japanese have fortified Ping-Yang and are throwing out scouting parties toward the Yalu River.

The Russians are keeping open the communications between Wiju and Anju. Beyond this they have not advanced southward. Russian spies are known to be in the vicinity of Ping-Yang. The inhabitants are in a panic.

Ping-Yang is about 125 miles north of Seoul, and somewhat less than fifty miles south of Anju, where Russian cavalry outposts were reported yesterday. The town is about 100 miles south of the Yalu.

UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

The railway between Samara and Zlatoust, in European Russia, and the Siberian lines, with all the territory appropriated by the Government for the purpose of the railways, have been placed under martial law, in order to ensure the regular running of military trains. The full powers of a commander of an army have been conferred on the commanders of the forces at Kazan, and in the Siberian military districts, in whose charge these railways have been placed.

RUSSIA'S WAR FUND.

The Novosti, of St. Petersburg, reviewing the resources of the Treasury, figures that the total amount at the disposal of the Government for the conduct of the war is $320,000,000, which it considers to be quite sufficient, in view of the fact that the Turkish war, waged on foreign territory, cost only $500,000,000.

NORTH OF YALU RIVER.

Reliable reports from Northern Corea indicate that the Russians have not yet crossed the Yalu River. Their scouts have, it is rumored, penetrated into the country south of Wiju, but the main force still remains north of the river. The Japanese seem to be confident that the Russians are unable to assemble a sufficient force to attempt a movement into Corea. The Russians strength north of the Yalu River is variously estimated at from twenty to forty thousand.

CZAR'S LATEST SPEECH.

Public feeling at St. Petersburg has been relieved by the appointmebt of Gen. Kroupatkin and Admiral Makaroff to command in the Far East. The newspapers are publishing glowing eulogies of them, and they enjoy high esteem and full confidence in all quarters. Subscriptions in aid of the victims of the war increase daily, and come from all classes and races. The Russophile demonstrations in France have created a deep impression. The Novosti declares that henceforth Russia can have full confidence in France.

The Czar, in thanking the St. Petersburg Zemstov for a royal address presented to his Majesty at the Winter Palace on Wednesday, said:—"The expressions of patriotism from all parts of Russia greatly console me in this difficult time. Trusting in God's help, and convinced of the justice of our cause, I am persuaded that the army and fleet will do all that is becoming to the valiant arms of Russia to maintain the honor and glory of the empire."

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

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

Toronto, March 1.—Wheat—The market continues firm at generally unchanged prices. No. 2 white and red Winter are quoted at $1 low freights to millers. Spring wheat is nominal at 92 to 93c east, and goose at 82 to 83c east. Manitoba wheat is unchanged, with No. 1 Northern quoted at $1.07 at Georgian Bay ports, No. 2 Northern at $1.04, and No. 3 Northern at $1.01. No. 1 hard is nominal at $1.10. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices steady. No. 2 white quoted at 32½c north and west and at 33c east, and No. 2 at 33c east.

Barley—The market is quiet, with a moderate demand. No. 2 quoted at 47 to 48c middle freights. No. 3 extra at 45c, and No. 3 at 42 to 43c middle freights.

Peas—The market is firm, with No. 2 quoted at 65c west and 66c east.

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices firmer. No. 3 American yellow quoted at 55c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 54c. Canadian corn, 44c on track, Toronto, and 38 to 38½c west.

Rye—The market is firm, with No. 2 quoted at 56 to 58c east and west.

Buckwheat—The market is unchanged, with demand good. No. 2 quoted at 50 to 52c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are unchanged, with buyers at $3.70 middle freights, in buyers' sacks, for export. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade quoted at $4.35 to $4.75 in bbls. Manitoba flours unchanged. No. 1 patents, $5.30; No. 2, $5; and strong bakers', $4.90 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 prices steady at $2 to $2.50 per bbl for the best stock.

Dried apples—The demand is small, and prices are unchanged at 3½ to 4½c per lb. Evaporated apples, 6c per bbl.

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 stuff coming forward. No. 1 timothy quoted at $9.50 a ton 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 90c to $1 per bag, on track here, and inferior quality at 80 to 85c per bag.

Poultry—Receipts are moderate, and prices as a rule unchanged. Chickens, 12 to 14c per lb. Turkeys are quoted at 15 to 16c per lb., and geese at 11 to 12c per lb.; ducks at 13c per lb., or $1.50 to $1.75 per pair; fowls, 9 to 10c, per lb

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market was quiet today, with prices generally unchanged, as offerings are only moderate. We quote:—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 17 to 18c; choice, large rolls, 16 to 16½c; selected dairy tubs, 17c; medium and low grades, 13 to 15c; creamery prints, 21 to 22c; solids, 19 to 20c.

Eggs—The market is quiet with stocks pretty well cleaned out. New laid 35 to 40c per dozen

Cheese—Trade quiet. We quote:—Finest September's, 11c; seconds, 10 to 10½c

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are firmer, with receipts light. Car lots sold at $6.25 to $6.40, delivered here. Cured meats are in good demand, and prices firm. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 8½c per lb. in case lots. Mess pork, $16.50; do., short cut, $18.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12½c; do., heavy, 12c; rolls, 10 to 10½c; shoulders, 9½ to 10c; backs, 13 to 13½c; breakfast bacon, 13c.

Lard—The market is quiet, with prices rather firmer. We quote:—Tierces 8c, tubs 8¼c, pails 8½c, compound 7½ to 7¾c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Mar. 1.—Millers are taking all the better grades of wheat they can get their hands on. Oats were very firm to-day; No. 2 were quoted at 30½c car lots, in store, this morning; No. 3 oats were 38½ to 39c; a few carloads being sold at the latter figure, Montreal inspection. Other grains are in fair demand at firm prices; No. 3 extra barley was 55c in store; No. 2 oats low freight west for export, 32½c; No. 2 peas, 64½c; rye, 52c; No. 2 barley, 46c; No. 3 extra barley 45c; No. 3, 44c. Flour—Millers report a firm market at the recent advance, the demand being active; Manitoba patents, $5.40; strong bakers', $5.10; Winter wheat patents, $4.85 to $5; straight rollers, $4.60 to $4.70; straight rollers in bags, $2.15 to $2.25. Feed—Bran and shorts are firm at the recent advance; Manitoba bran in bags, $19 to $20; shorts $21 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk $19 to $20; shorts, $20.50 to $21.50; mouillie, $26 to $28 per ton, according to quality. Rolled oats—The market holds firm, $2.15 being asked for bags and $4.50 for bbls. 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, 8c; Canadian lard 8½ to 9c; kettle rendered, 10½c; hams, 11½ to 12c; bacon, 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7.75; country dressed hogs, $6.50 to $6.75; live hogs, $5.50. Eggs—New laid, 37 to 38c; limed, 30 to 32c. Butter—Winter creamery, 19½ to 20c; full grass, 21c; Western dairy, 15 to 15½; rolls, 16 to 17c. Cheese—Ontario 11 to 11¼c; Townships, 10¾ to 10⅞c

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Mar. 1.—Flour—Strong fancy blended patent, $5.75; fancy Spring patent, $5.40; family patent Winter, $5; pastry, $4.75; low grades, $3.75; rye, $3.50. Wheat—Spring quiet; No. 1 Northern, Duluth, $1.11⅞. Corn—Strong for yellow and firm for other grades; No. 2 yellow, 54¾c; No. 2 corn, 53c. Oats—Stronger; No. 2 white, 51½c; No. 2 mixed, 49½c. Barley—57 to 65c asked for Western in store.

Milwaukee, Mar. 1.—Wheat firmer; No. 1 Northern, $1.02 to $1.04; No. 2 Northern, 99c to $1.01; July, 96⅞c. Rye—Weaker; No. 1, 81 to 82c. Barley—Steady; No. 2, 63c; sample, 43 to 61c. Corn—Firmer; No. 3, 46 to 47c; July, 55⅝c.

Minneapolis, Mar. 1.—Wheat—May, $1.02½; July, $1.02⅜ to $1.02½; September, 91⅞ to 92c; on track, No. 1 hard, $1.05; No. 1 Northern, $1.05; No. 2 Northern, $1.00¼; No. 3 Northern, 95 to 97c. Flour—First patents, $5.20 to $5.30; second patents, $5.10 to $5.20; first clears $3.70 to $3.80; second clears, $2.70 to $2.80. Bran—In bulk, $15.50 to $15.75.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, March 1.—Deliveries of live stock continued light at the Western Market to-day. Most of the butchers' brought forward in time for the market were sold, although in a few instances drovers held over their stock in the hope of obtaining better prices for it that they were offered.

The sheep trade was fair. No change in prices of consequence were reported, but still lambs seemed to sell at a lower basis than earlier in the week, holders not beinb so high in their views. The demand for most of the sheep was fairly good, but barnyard lambs were slow to sell.

The market for butchers' held about steady at previous quotations. Prices follow:—Good loads, $4.25 to $4.50; fair to good, $3.65 to $4.20; common to fair, $3.15 to $3.60; rough cows $2.50 to $3.20 per cwt.

No new feature arose in the bull market to report. Quotations were $3.50 to $4 for export bulls, $3.25 to $3.50 for feeders, and $2.50 up for lights.

Trade in sheep and lambs was fair and prices were no higher, indeed values seem to have reached their maximum limit, as consumers will not freely buy meat costing above a certain point. We quote as follows:—Export ewes, $3.75 to $4.25; export bucks, $3 to $3.50; mixed butchers', $3.50 to $4; grain-fed lambs, $5.25 to $5.60; barnyard lambs, $4.50 to $5 per cwt. Barnyard lambs were only in limited demand, and sales were not easy to effect.

Business in feeders and stockers continued quiet at unchanged quotations. We quote:—Feeders, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs., $4 to $4.25; feeders, 800 to 1,000 lbs., $3.50 to $4; stockers, 600 to 800 lbs., $3 to $3.50; stock calves, 400 to 600 lbs. $2.75 to $3.50 per cwt.

Prices for milch cows ranged from $25 to $50 each.

Hogs were unchanged. We quote—Selects, 160 to 200 lbs., of prime bacon quality, off cars, Toronto, $5; fats and lights, $4.75; sows, $3 to $3.50; stags, $2.50 to $3 per cwt.

BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

Treaty Removing All Obstacles to be Signed.

A London despatch says: Premier Balfour had sufficiently recovered his health to come from Brighton to this city on Thursday to preside at a Cabinet meeting. Prior to the meeting the French Ambassador, M. Cambon, called at the Foreign Office and had an hour's talk with Foreign Secretary Lansdowne. The Ambassador returned here from Paris last night, and, apart from an exchange of views in regard to the most recent developments of the war, on which subject the two Cabinets are keeping in the closest touch with each other, there is good reason to believe that a settlement of all matters in dispute between France and Great Britain is on the eve of being arranged. Such questions as Egypt, Morocco, Newfoundland, etc., have been fully discussed by the two Governments for some months, and the differences are being gradually eliminated, until practically nothing remains to prevent an early signature of a treaty removing all outstanding obstacles to a complete accord between the two powers.

It is reported that ex-President Kruger of the Transvaal is dying at Mentone, France.