SITUATION AT PORT ARTHUR

Provisions Are High, But the Troops Are in Good Condition.

ALIVE WITH MINES.

The Chefoo correspondent of the London Daily Mail sends the narrative of the captain of a Chinese junk that was chartered by the Japanese newspapermen to visit Port Arthur. He says he landed at Fangiason, near Port Arthur, on March 10, and walked to Port Arthur, where he arrived the next day. He found the prices of provisions excessive, and is convinced that there will be starvation in the event of a siege. The troops are in good condition, but they are inexpert marksmen, being inferior to the Chinese. Emboldened by what they have seen, the natives are growing restive and eager for independence. Eight battleships and cruisers and ten destroyers have not been injured. They often issue from the harbor, but never far from the forts. Inside the entrance there are a number of damaged ships. There is a boom across the entrance which is alive with mines. The troops are being withdrawn between Port Arthur and Dalny. Their present strength is 2,000. Numbers of Chinese have, with permission from the Russians, departed for New-Chwang, but when they reached Kinchow they were forcibly taken from the trains and compelled to work in the construction of a new fort. In order to prevent the Chinese from escaping from Port Arthur their junks have been destroyed. Three junks, with a hundred Chinese aboard, left a village near Liao-Tishin on March 14. They were sighted by soldiers guarding the lighthouse and a destroyer was sent after them. She fired on the junks killing four of the Chinese. The remainder were captured and imprisoned at Port Arthur.

A new fort is being built east of the Liao-Tishin lighthouse, because the Japanese at present cannot be reached by the Russians' fire when their warships are behind Liao-Tishin. The hills around Port Arthur are a network of wire and other obstacles to check an advance from the land side. The railway sidings have been increased. Seven hundred cars are held in readiness in case a retreat is ordered. The western forts were extensively damaged in the various bombardments, and are now silent. One of the eastern forts is also out of action.

CUT OFF SUPPLIES.

Prince Alatsin, sovereign of Mongolia, en route to his capital, arrived at Kinchow on Wednesday from Pekin, and also from Japan, where he witnessed the manoeuvres and mobilization of the Japanese army. In accordance with the declaration of Chinese neutrality, Prince Alatsin has commanded the observance of neutrality throughout Mongolia, thus rendering illegal the large pony, beef, and feed traffic upon which the Russians are depending, but which, notwithstanding his Japanese sympathies he has found it impossible to suppress.

The maintenance of neutrality by the Chinese in the region of the Great Wall and the Liao River is said to be complete, thus contrasting with the alleged Russian violation of neutrality in the same region by the maintenance of armed patrols and guards half-way to Shan-Hai-Kwan.

RUSSIA'S PLANS.

When Gen. Kouropatkin reaches Mukden it is understood that the Emperor's forces at the theatre of war will be divided into three armies—one on the peninsula, including the Port Arthur garrison under Gen. Stossel, military commander at Port Arthur; a central army under Gen. Linevitch, and a northern army under Gen. Baron Stackelburg. Any idea that Gen. Kouropatkin's arrival will be signalized by aggressive tactics is discouraged in the highest military circles, where attention is called to the General's repeated injunctions—patience, patience, patience.

"We can afford to wait, whether or not the Japanese can," is the sentiment among the believers in Gen. Kouropatkin. He expects to force the Japanese to fight on grounds of his own choosing. There will be no forward movement in Corea. On the contrary, the Russians at the Yalu are now screening their concentration to the westward, and they probably will retire as the Japanese advance in force, harassing and retarding them as much as possible until the proper time to uncover the main Russian army.

The continued landing of Japanese troops in Corea is exactly to the liking of the Russian strategists. The bigger the army disembarked there, the better they will be suited, being convinced that once Corea is filled with the Mikado's soldiers, by pressure of numbers and clamor of public opinion Japan will be driven forward into the arms of the Russians. Nothing but a complete change of plan in the Japanese campaign, as developed up to date, will compel the Russians to depart from their determination to play a consistent waiting game, being persuaded that all the advantages of such a policy lie on their side.

The Russians also express much more satisfaction at the present situation at Liao Tung. The forces on the peninsula have been reinforced to an extent which will render a Japanese landing there difficult, if not impossible, and the garrison at Port Arthur has been amply provisioned to withstand a siege. So far as the peninsula is concerned the preparations there may now be regarded as complete.

JAPS AT TOHITA.

Information has been received at St. Petersburg to the effect that the Japanese in Corea have reached Tohita. It is believed that those who recently landed at Plaskin Bay have returned to Gensan.

There is an epidemic of typhoid fever among the Japanese in the Seoul and Ping-Yang districts.

HOW RUSSIA GOT FOOLED.

Referring to the official Russo-Japanese correspondence that was submitted to the Diet on March 23, the Tokio correspondent of the London Times says the documents show that Japan's last note offering to recognize Manchuria as being outside of Japan's political sphere provided Russia recognized Corea as being outside of hers, instead of placating Russia seemed to have induced her to imagine that she could obtain everything by insistence, and that Japan would sacrifice anything rather than fight.

NEW-CHWANG ANXIOUS.

An informal meeting of foreign Consuls at New-Chwang has been called for the purpose of discussing means for securing the protection of the property of neutrals, in view of the fact that New-Chwang is now surrounded by large Russian forces, having breastworks and batteries established at the railway station on the east side of the River Liao, and also at the fort on the west side. This situation exposes the treaty port to the danger of cannon fire, should the Japanese come up the river.

On account of the fear that the United States gunboat Helena will be withdrawn, American residents have telegraphed to United States Minister Conger at Pekin, requesting the presence of an American man-of-war during the continuance of the war, for the purpose of especially protecting property during the disorder that it is expected will attend the interregnum between Russian and Japanese occupations.

WITHIN THE ZONE.

The Washington correspondent of the London Morning Post says that Russia is continuing her efforts to induce the United States to agree to the neutralization of New-Chwang and the west coast of Liao-Tung Peninsula, so as to prevent the Japanese from using those places as bases for the invasion of Manchuria. The United States firmly declines to accede to the proposal. She has informed Russia that she regards New-Chwang as being as much within the zone of hostilities as Port Arthur. She has also refused the Russian request that she withdraw her Consul from New-Chwang, at least not until his life is considered to be in danger.

MANY TROOPS FORWARDED.

The despatch of troops from Russia to the Far East is proceeding with increased vigor. A rifle battalion left St. Petersburg on Wednesday, and three others will follow this week, the largest draft going from the Moscow district.

PREPARING FOR THE ENEMY.

While the situation remains quiet, it is not expected that Vladivostock will continue to be much longer free from the vigorous operations of the Japanese. In anticipation of the appearance of the enemy, and of a possible siege, a ladies' circle has been formed, which sits six hours daily at the Ministry of Marine preparing bandages of linen for sick soldiers and sailors.

RIOTING IN CHINA.

Mr. John Fowler, the American Consul at Chefoo, has been informed of anti-tax rioting at Chenemg-Chow, Shantung, where a number of Germans were massacred in 1898. The missionaries are leaving the neighborhood. The German railway is guarded by police. The importance of the incident lies in the fact that it enables the Germans to take any steps they think proper to safeguard their interests.

COREANS BEAT COSSACKS.

A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph, from Seoul, says that a party of Cossacks arrived on March 10 at Kang-Keui, a hundred miles north of Gensan, where two battalions of Coreans are stationed. The Russians demanded the use of the barracks for themselves and for others who were due to arrive. The Corean commander refused, and there was a quarrel, which led to a fight, in which the Corean commander was killed, but the Russians were repulsed, losing 35 killed and 17 wounded. Twenty Coreans were killed.

KILLED 100 CHUNCHUSES.

Gen. Zilinski, Kouropatkin's chief of staff, reports that Cossacks have killed 100 Chunchuses near Odomi, on the Siberian Railway, eighty miles south-west of Harbin.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDS.

Sent Free of Charge for Co-operative Experiments.

The members of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union are pleased to state that for 1904 they are prepared to distribute into every Township of Ontario material for experiments with fodder crops, roots, grains, grasses, clovers, and fertilizers. Upwards of 1,500 varieties of farm crops have been tested in the Experimental Department of the Ontario agricultural College, Guelph, for at least five years in succession. These consist of nearly all the Canadian sorts and several hundred new varieties, some of which have done exceedingly well in the carefully conducted experiments at the College and are now being distributed free of charge for co-operative experiments throughout Ontario. The following is the list of co-operative experiments for 1904:

No.	Experiments.	Plots.
1.	Three varieties of oats	3
2.	Three varieties of barley	3
3.	Two varieties of Hulless barley	2
4.	Two varieties of Spring wheat	2
5.	Two varieties of buckwheat	2
6.	Two varieties of Field peas for Northern Ontario	2
7.	Emmer and Spelt	2
8.	Cow peas and two varieties of soy, soja, of Japanese Beans	3
9.	Three varieties of husking corn	3
10.	Three varieties of Mangolds	3
11.	Two varieties of sugar beets for feeding purposes	2
12.	Three varieties of Swedish turnips	3
13.	Kohl Rabi and two varieties of Fall turnips	3
14.	Parsnips and two varieties of carrots	3
15.	Three varieties of fodder or silage corn	3
16.	Three varieties of millet	3
17.	Three varieties of Sorghum	3
18.	Grass peas and two varieties of vetches	3
19.	Two varieties of rape	2
20.	Three varieties of clover	3
21.	Sainfoin, lucerne and Burnet	3
22.	Seven varieties of Grasses	7
23.	Three varieties of Field beans	3
24.	Three varieties of Sweet corn	3
25.	Fertilizers with corn	6
26.	Fertilizers with Swedish turnips	6
27.	Growing potatoes on the level and in hills	2
28.	Two varieties of early, medium or late potatoes	2
29.	Planting cut potatoes which have and which have not been coated over with land plaster	2
30.	Planting corn in rows and in squares (an excellent variety of early corn will be used)	2

The size of each plot in each of the first twenty-six experiments is to be two rods long by one rod wide in Nos. 27, 28, and 29, one rod square; and in No. 30, four rods square (one-tenth of an acre).

Each person in Ontario who wishes to join in the work may choose any ONE of the experiments for 1904, and apply for the same. The material will be furnished in the order in which the applications are received until the supply is exhausted. It might be well for each applicant to make a second choice, for fear the first could not be granted. All material will be furnished entirely free of charge to each applicant, and the produce of the plots will, of course, become the property of the person who conducts the experiment.

C. A. ZAVITZ, Director.
Ontario Agricultural College,
Guelph, March, 1904.

G. T. R. APPLIES FOR AID.

Government Asked to Grant Subsidy for Branch Line.

A despatch from Toronto says:—The Grand Trunk Railway Company are seeking a grant from the Ontario Government. General Manager Hays visited Premier Ross on Thursday and asked for a subsidy for a branch line which the company proposes to build from the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific to Port Arthur.

TO ATTRACT IMMIGRANTS.

Australian Premiers to Confer on Scheme.

A despatch from London says: A conference of Australian Premiers will be held in April to decide on a scheme to attract immigrants. The statistics show that the total immigration in the last 30 years was 780,000, of whom 644,000 were assisted.

PEST IN JOHANNESBURG.

Deaths From Bubonic Plague Now Reach Eighty-Two.

A despatch from Johannesburg says: Up to date the total number of deaths from bubonic plague is forty-two white and forty colored persons.

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 29.—Wheat. — No. 2 white and red are quoted at 92 to 93c low freights. Spring wheat is nominal at 89c east, and goose at 83 to 84c east. Manitoba wheat steady, with No. 1 Northern selling at $1.02 at Georgian Bay ports; No. 2 Northern at 98c, and No. 3 Northern at 95c. No. 1 hard is nominal at $1.04. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats.—No. 2 white quoted at 32 to 32½c north and west, and 33c low freights. No. 1 white quoted at 33c east, and No. 2 at 32½c east.

Barley.—No. 2 quoted at 45c middle freights. No. 3 extra at 43 to 44c. and No. 3 at 42c middle freights.

Peas.—No. 2 quoted at 65c west and 66c east.

Corn.—The market is quiet, with prices steady. No. 3 American yellow quoted at 52½c on track, Toronto; No. 3 mixed at 51½c. Canadian corn is nominal at 32½c west for yellow, and 38c for mixed.

Rye—No. 2 quoted at 58 to 59c east and west.

Buckwheat.—No. 2 quoted at 51 to 52c middle freights.

Flour.—Ninety per cent. patents are unchanged; buyers at $3.60 middle freights in buyers' sacks for export. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade quoted at $4.40 to $4.65 in bbls. Manitoba flours unchanged; No. 1 patents, $5.30; No. 2 patents, $5, and strong bakers', $4.90, on track, Toronto.

Millfeed.—Bran is steady at $17 to $17.50, and shorts at $18.50 here. At outside points bran is quoted at $16.50, 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 limited, and prices are unchanged at 3½ to 4½c per lb. Evaporated apples, 6 to 6½c per lb.

Beans.—Trade is quiet, and prices steady. Prime beans are quoted at $1.50 to $1.60, and hand-picked at $1.65 to $1.70.

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 offerings moderate. 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 steady, with offerings moderate. Choice cars are quoted at 85c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 80c per bag.

Poultry—Receipts are moderate, and prices as a rule unchanged. Chickens, 12 to 13c per lb.; turkeys are quoted at 15 to 16c per lb. for fresh killed; ducks, 13c, and geese at 10 to 12c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter.—We quote as follows:—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 18 to 18½c; choice large rolls and selected dairy tubs, 16 to 17c; medium and low grades, 12½ to 14c; creamery prints, 21 to 22c; solids, 19½ to 20c.

Eggs.—Case lots sold to-day at 20 to 21c per dozen.

Cheese.—We quote:— Finest September's, 11c; late Fall and seconds, 10 to 10½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offerings moderate. Car lots at $6.25 to $6.50, delivered here. Cured meats are in good demand at unchanged prices. We quote:— Bacon, long clear, 8½ to 8½c per lb. in case lots. Mess pork, $16.50 to $17; do., short cut, $18.50.

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

Lard—The demand is fair, with prices firmer. We quote:—Tierces, 8 to 8¼c; tubs, 8½c; pails, 8¾c; compound, 7½ to 8¼c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, March 29.—Reports received here by local exporters this morning from Fort William were to the effect that there was little wheat offering, but that the market was on the easy side at 83c for No. 3 Northern store, and 88c for No. 2. Nothing is selling save oats, and few of these; only one sale was heard of this forenoon, 28½c having been paid for No. 3 Montreal inspection, car lots in store; No. 2 are worth a cent more than No. 3. Flour—Millers report a firm market, the demand being active; Manitoba patents, $5.40; strong bakers', $5.10; Winter wheat patents, $5 to $5.25; straight rollers, $4.75 to $5; straight rollers, in bags, $2.25 to $2.35. Feed—Bran and shorts are firm, and demand good; Manitoba bran, in bags, $19 to $20; shorts, $21 per ton; Ontario bran, in bulk, $19 to $20; shorts, $20.50 to $21.50; middlings, $26 to $28 per ton, as to quality. Rolled oats—The market is firm; dealers are asking $2.25 to $2.30 for bags, and $4.70 to $4.90 bbls. on track. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $18.50 to $19; light short cut, $16 to $17.50; American short cut clear, $17 to $17.50; American fat backs, $21.50; compound lard, 7½ to 8c; Canadian lard, 8½ to 9c; kettle rendered, 8¾ to 9c; hams, 11 to 13c; bacon, 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs $7.50 to $7.75; country dressed hogs, $7; live hogs, $5.50. Eggs—New laid, 21 to 22c. Butter—Winter rreamery, 19½ to 20c; new made, 20½ to 21c; full grass Fall makes, 18½ to 21½c; Western dairy, 15 to 15½c; rolls, 16 to 17c; creamery, 18 to 18½c. Cheese—Ontario, 9¾ to 10½c; Townships 9½ to 10c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, March 29.—Flour—Steady. Wheat—Spring dull; No. 1 Northern, Duluth, $1.02; Winter, no offerings. Corn—Steady; No. 2 yellow, 55½c; No. 2 corn, 53 to 53½c. Oats—Easier; No. 2 white, 46½c; No. 2 mixed, 44c. Barley—Nothing done. Rye—Quiet; No. 1 on track, 82c.

Duluth, March 29.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, 95⅞c; No. 1 Northern, 94⅞c; No. 2 Northern, 91⅞c; May, 94⅞c; July, 95c; September, 81⅞c.

Minneapolis, March 29.—Wheat—May, 95⅛c; July, 95⅛; September, 81⅞c; on track, No. 1 hard, 96⅞ to 96⅞c; No. 1 Northern, 95⅛ to 95⅞c; No. 2 Northern, 95⅞c. Flour—First patents, $5.15 to $5.25; second patents, $5 to $5.10; first clears, $3.60 to $3.75; second clears, $2.65 to $2.75. Bran—In bulk, $14.50.

Milwaukee, March 29.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 99c; No. 2 Northern, 96 to 97c; old July, 86⅞c. Rye—No. 1, 71 to 72c. Barley—No. 2, 62 to 63c; sample, 34 to 34⅞c. Corn—No. 3, 46½ to 47c; July, 49¼c bid.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto, March 29.—Butchers' cattle were in good demand at the Western Market to-day, and their prices held steady at previous quotations. Exporters' descriptions did not sell so well as the butchers'. Hogs were weak, and a decline next week is anticipated. Sheep of good quality were steady in price, while the values of Spring lambs were easy. The receipts were 81 cars, containing 1,107 cattle, 444 sheep and lambs, 1,803 hogs, and 154 calves.

Exporters' cattle sold at $4.45 to $4.70 per cwt., according to quality.

The demand for butchers' improved over the early part of the week. The market held steady. We quote as follows:—Good loads, $2.25 to $4.45; 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.

The market for bulls was active. We quote:—$3.50 to $4 for export bulls, $3.25 to $3.50 for feeders, and $2.50 up for lights.

The enquiry for feeders and stockers was good, and a number of loads changed hands at current quotations. We quote as follows:—Feeders, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs., $3.90 to $4.45; 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.

Trade in sheep and lambs was good, while Spring lambs were dull and lower. We quote as follows:—Export ewes, $3.75 to $4.25; export bucks, $3 to $3.50; mixed butchers' sheep, $3.50 to $4; grain-fed lambs, $5.25 to $6; barnyard lambs, $4.50 to $5.25 per cwt. Spring lambs were worth $2.50 to $6.50 each.

Milch cows were quoted at $30 to $50 each.

Calves sold at 4½ to 5¾c per lb., and $2 to $12 each.

Hogs were weak. Wm. Harris received 1,400. 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.

A SKELETON CREW.

For Days Endured Agonies of Hunger and Thirst.

A London despatch says:—The survivors from the British barque, Mary A. Troop, which was abandoned at sea while on a voyage from Pensacola for Rio Janeiro have arrived at Southampton. They relate terrible experiences. The barque encountered a gale, during which her boats were swept away, her main and mizzen masts went by the board and her bulwarks and hatches were ripped off. The barque became waterlogged, and for 26 days tremendous seas swept over her. The carpenter was drowned.

At the end of 19 days all the food, consisting of a barrel of flour, a dozen boxes of condensed milk, and a can of apricots, was eaten, and all the water was drunk. The crew chewed lead and wood to relieve their cravings.

The captain's niece, in addition to the agonies of hunger and thirst and exposure, lost all her warm clothing and was compelled to improvise clothing from sacks.

The gale was very fierce, and those aboard the barque were compelled to lash themselves to the deck to prevent themselves being swept overboard. At the same time they had to work the pumps to keep the vessel from foundering.

When they were reduced almost to skeletons, and were half mad from the privations, and when their condition seemed hopeless, the steamer Cairnisla was sighted. She pluckily took off those on the barque, notwithstanding the heavy seas. The survivors were landed at Havre, whence they were brought to Southampton.