GREAT BATTLE AT HAND

For the Control of the Key to the Yalu River.

FOR SEVENTY-FIVE MILES.

A despatch to the London Daily Mail from Ping-Yang says that the Russians hold the Yalu River for 75 miles from its mouth.

DAILY ARRIVALS 2,000.

A despatch to the London Morning Post from Yin-Kow says that trustworthy information comes from the interior to the effect that while the correspondent's informant was at Harbin troops were detraining there at the rate of over 2,000 daily, with horses. In the last three weeks 28 batteries have reached Harbin. From these sixty guns have arrived at Yin-Kow, making a total of nearly 100 guns there.

CHINESE DREAD RUSSIA.

The London Standard prints a Tokio despatch saying that there is growing irritation at China's inability to enforce her neutrality. The Chinese Government is apparently unable to shake off its dread of Russia, as is known by its lack of power to compel the Russian gunboat Mandjur to leave Shanghai or to drive the Russians from the right side of the Liao River.

TO FLY OVER WARSHIPS.

A despatch from Harbin says that Lieut. Schrober is bound for Port Arthur with an apparatus consisting of a car suspended from several kites, which will enable him to fly above warships, to the mast of which he will be attached by a light cable containing a telegraph wire. By means of this apparatus he will be enabled to take observations at a great distance and to convey the resultant information to the ship.

FAST TORPEDO BOATS.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says that in accordance with a desire of Vice-Admiral Makaroff the Novsky yards are sending to Port Arthur by rail eighteen torpedo boats of the cyclone type, capable of making 30 knots an hour. The same correspondent says Minister von Plehve went out yesterday for the first time after a two weeks' illness.

RUSSIANS ON THE YALU.

A London despatch says :—A fierce land engagement is imminent in Northern Corea. Two thousand Russian troops, including Cossacks and infantrymen, are entrenched about the gate on the south side of Wiju, while the town is filled with the Czar's soldiers ready and eager for battle. Strong Russian outposts also are entrenched at other points along the Yalu, determined to drive back the Japanese should the latter give them issue and attempt to cross the river.

The Japanese army is advancing northward from Ping-Yang and Chong-Ju, and probably within a few miles of the Russian lines.

That the Japanese armies have been placed in the positions outlined by the Military Council at Tokio is evidenced by the fact that the Government has allowed the newspaper correspondents to leave the capital for the front. The work of the transports in landing troops in Corea evidently has been completed, and the next important piece of news from the Far East undoubtedly will come from Northern Corea almost any day.

ADVANCE ON PORT ARTHUR.

The Shanghai correspondent of the London Standard says that persons who have arrived from Manchuria report that the Russian forces are still inadequate to defend the country between Kirin and Port Arthur, upon which the Japanese are slowly advancing in three columns. The Russians are said to be badly fed and to be totally lacking in the fighting spirit. The Japanese cavalry is admitted to be inferior to the Russian, but their infantry and artillery are greatly superior. The Japanese officials are in daily expectation of a serious engagement in Southern Manchuria, but no decisive attempt to capture Port Arthur will be made until the railway is effectively disabled.

BEFORE THE FLOOD.

News received in London from Russian and Japanese sources shows that the Japanese movements in Corea is energetic and rapid. Surprise is expressed that the Russians failed to defend Syonshkon, which appears on most maps as Sonchon. It is believed that the Japanese are anxious to secure Wiju before the flooding of the Yalu River, which generally covers a vast extent of territory.

JAPS MARCHING ON.

A despatch to the London Daily Mail from Seoul says that after their victory at Chong-Ju the Japanese advanced towards Koak-San, 13 miles from Chong-Ju, driving the Russians before them. The latter still occupy positions north of the Pakchon River. Apparently some force of Japanese has reached that river. Some Japanese returning to the south state that 53 Japanese infantry who were trying to advance north of the river were ambushed by Cossacks and destroyed. The correspondent says he doubts this report and adds :—"Such reports as can be obtained here indicate that the main Japanese army is steadily following its advance guard northward from Ping-Yang, taking immense stores with it."

AT NEWCHWANG.

A despatch to the London Chronicle from New-Chwang says that there are now 36,000 Russian troops within fifteen miles of New-Chwang. Gen. Kouropatkin was expected to arrive there Friday night.

The London Daily Telegraph prints a despatch from New-Chwang stating that after martial law had been declared the British and American Consuls asked the Russian Administrator if he claimed the right to arrest British subjects and Americans? He replied that he did. A Russian official says, however, that the Consular jurisdiction is still effective, except as regards offences coming under martial law. Martial law was established to enable the Russians to better protect foreigners. The correspondent says that the Russians thus far have been extremely moderate. The declaration of martial law was absolutely justified. The town is splendidly policed.

JAPS SINK A JUNK.

A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Wei-Hai-Wei says that a small steamer named the Sanes Maru, towing a junk laden with provisions from Chefoo to Port Arthur has been torpedoed by a Japanese torpedo boat. Twenty-five persons were killed. The fate of the junk is not stated.

HAD STORES FOR JAPAN.

As a result of an enquiry into the Russian capture near Elliot Island of a vessel manned by Chinese, flying the Japanese flag, and laden with military stores and provisions, it has been ascertained that the cargo was destined for Japanese troops who recently landed on Haiyuntau Island, which was ceded to Russia concurrently with Port Arthur, and which is used as a Russian coal depot.

JAPAN WANTS SHIPS.

A number of Japanese naval officers, conducted by Capt. Takikawa, the Japanese naval attache at Berlin, are visiting German shipyards and trying to buy vessels. They visited the Vulcan works at Stettin, and it is reported that they tried to place contracts for warships or steamers, but the owners of the works refused the offer.

MARQUIS ITO RETURNS.

The Marquis Ito returned to Tokio on Friday from his special mission to the Emperor of Corea. He was received at the railroad station by the Ministers and was granted an audience by the Emperor of Japan. While it is denied that political significance is attached to the mission, it doubtless cements the cordiality between the Corean and Japanese courts and will inspire the Corean Emperor with confidence in the intentions of Japan.

SEIZE AN ARSENAL.

Gen. Tseng-Chi, commanding the Chinese troops in Manchuria, sends the information that the Russians have seized the arsenal at Kirin, between Harbin and Mukden. They are using the arsenal to manufacture ammunition, which they are turning out ceaselessly. Gen. Tseng-Chi states also that the Russians intend to raise a body of 50,000 Mongol or Chinese troops to relieve the Russian guards engaged in patrolling the Manchurian Railway.

RUSSIANS IN COREA.

A despatch to the London Times from New-Chwang says that a messenger from the Yalu River reports that there had been no fighting since March 27. The Russians have four guns at Yanposhan, where there are many troops. There are more guns and troops at Anchau, twelve miles from Antung. Other forces are at Takushan and Tatungkau. The commissariat has been organized at Feng-Wong-Cheng.

30 MILES FROM THE YALU.

Information has been received at Tokio from a private source that the Japanese troops, after dislodging the Russians at Cheng-Ju on March 28, rested for one day and then advanced to Yong-Chun (about 45 miles west of Chong-Ju). After a brief engagement they drove the enemy further north, the Russians retreating toward Unsan, a town 80 miles north-east of Yong-Chun.

CASUALTIES WERE FEW.

The Japanese Legation at London has received the following official report from Tokio of the fighting between Japanese and Russian forces at Chong-Ju, Corea, Monday :—

"On March 28 a portion of our cavalry and infantry forces occupied Chong-Ju after defeating the enemy. The enemy, who numbered about 600 men, retreated in the direction of Wiju. Our casualties were Lieut. Kano and four others killed; Captain Kurokawa and twelve others wounded.

"There were no casualties among our infantry. Two dead bodies were left by the enemy on the field, but it is reported that some seven or eight were killed inside the town. These were probably carried off by the enemy on horseback or by ambulance. The Russians were seen conveying in an ambulance two dead men, apparently officers, and blood-stained bandages were found scattered around. The enemy must have sustained losses at least equal to our own."

FORCES ENGAGED.

The Echo de Paris has a despatch from St. Petersburg which says that the Japanese numbered 2,000 and the Cossacks 900 in the Chongju engagement. The two forces were only 600 yards apart in the fight.

WHALE EXPLODED MINE.

One of the mines in Possiet Bay has been exploded by a whale. The mutilated carcase subsequently was washed ashore. It bore evidence of the destructive qualities of the mine laid by the Russians in expectation of a Japanese landing at Possiet Bay.

OUT ON A CRUISE.

It is reported at New-Chwang that nine Russian warships are cruising twelve miles outside of Port Arthur, directing the forts in experimental firing. The cruiser Askold is still further out at sea scouting.

MET DEATH LIKE HEROES.

Admiral Togo, in his official despatch relating to the attempt of his fleet to "bottle up" the Russian vessels in Port Arthur harbor of Sunday last, says :—

"Commander Hiroz and Boatswain Sugino, who were killed, displayed remarkable courage. Boatswain Sugino was just going down to light the magazine on the Fukui Maru when the ship was struck by an enemy's torpedo, which killed him.

"Commander Hiroz, after causing his men to take to the boats, and not finding Sugino, searched through the ship three times for him. Finding his ship gradually going down, Commander Hiroz was compelled to give up the search and enter a boat. As he was rowing away under the enemy's hot fire a shell struck him on the head. His head and part of his body were blown away. Of the brave officer's body, only a piece of flesh remained in the boat. Commander Hiroz was always a model officer, and he leaves a meritorious example, the memory of which will be everlasting."

The Emperor has conferred the Order of Kyte and the Order of the Rising Sun on Commander Hiroz, who was killed during the Japanese attempt to bottle up the Russian fleet at Port Arthur Sunday last. A movement has been inaugurated to erect a monument to the memory of Commander Hiroz.

BRUTAL TRAIN ROBBERS.

Murdered Messenger Who Refused to Open Safe.

A Sacramento, Cal., despatch says: Three masked men on Thursday night held up the Oregon express, southbound, on the Southern Pacific Railroad, at Copley, near Keswick, killed W. J. O'Neil, the express messenger, and carried off the contents of the express box. The train stopped at Copley, a small station, for water. Three men jumped on board and cut the train in two, taking the engine and express car down the track a short distance. They stopped the engine and demanded that Messenger O'Neil open the express car. He refused, whereupon they blew open the car with dynamite and deliberately killed O'Neil by shooting him through the head. The bandits then robbed the car of its contents, but it is not known how much they obtained. They then cut the car loose and, getting on the engine, compelled Engineer Joe Sink to go ahead. When near Keswick the men dropped off the engine and disappeared in the night with their plunder.

The robbers tried to force Messenger O'Neil's helper, who was in the baggage car when O'Neil was killed, to open the safe, but the helper showed that he could not do so. The robbers compelled the trainmen to place six sticks of dynamite on top of the safe. Then they had a heavy box set on the dynamite, to which a fuse was ordered attached. All but one of the robbers then left the car. He lighted the fuse. The party had just reached the locomotive when the explosion occurred. It wrecked the entire car.

RIDEAU HALL SCORCHED.

Governor-General and Household Tried to Check the Flames.

An Ottawa despatch says: Easter Sunday of this year of grace will long be remembered by the present occupants of Government House. It was just about 5 o-clock that one of the servant maids was aroused from sleep by a sensation of suffocation from smoke, and she at once gave the alarm. The alarm given by the girl led to the discovery of the fire in the new wing constructed four years ago on the east side of Rideau Hall. It was built at a cost of about $20,000 to give much-needed additional sleeping accommodation. The first room on the right hand of this wing, entering from the mail hall, was occapied by Mr. Guise, controller of the household. Mr. Guise had to be awakened from his sleep, although the fire was eating its way up the partition between his room and the spiral staircase.

HOUSEHOLD FOUGHT FLAMES.

Realizing that the conflagration was beyond the capacity of the staff to handle, an alarm was sent in for the city fire department from the box attached to the building. This was exactly at 5.30 a. m.

By the time the chief arrived the fire had got a firm hold of the new wing, and was gradually working its way along the roof of the main portion of the building among the old timbers which had been in position for over 50 years, and which were as dry as tinder. There is only a five-inch water main supplying Rideau Hall, and the pressure was weakened by the fact that at this point the main has a dead end. The chief was not going to take any chances, and he therefore immediately telephoned for a fire engine. It is due to Chief Provost's good judgment in this respect that Rideau Hall is to-day not one mass of ruins.

As soon as the department reached the scene the servants were detailed to remove the pictures, books and bricabrac to the front portion of the house, the chief assuring his Excellency that he could restrict the fire to the east wing, and the rooms immediately adjacent thereto. The progress of the flames in the roof in the main portion of the building was stopped before they had advanced more than one-third down the long corridor in the main building.

Four bedrooms on the first floor, Lady Minto's sitting-room, his Excellency's office, and Major Maude's office on the ground floor were the only ones affected. No fire entered these rooms, but they were drenched with water.

MAY ERECT NEW BUILDING.

During the past 36 years about one million dollars has been expended upon the building. First the racquet court was built, then a fine ballroom was added, afterwards a chapel in Lady Aberdeen's time, and lastly the new wing, which was destroyed to-day. Lady Aberdeen was very anxious to see a new Government House erected, commensurate with the dignity of Canada, and some Ministers think the time is opportune now to do this.

LORD CURZON'S WARNING.

Encroachments Toward India Will Be Checked.

A Calcutta despatch says: In the course of the budget discussion on Wednesday the Viceroy, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, declared it was his express intention to return to India.

The Viceroy spoke for an hour and a half. Referring to their responsibilities in Asia, he said India resembled a fortress, beyond whose walls there existed on one side a glacis of varying breadth and dimensions, which they did not desire to occupy, but which they could not afford to see occupied by a foe. They were quite content that it should remain in the hands of allies and friends, but if unfriendly influences should creep up and lodge under its walls, they would be compelled to intervene, because the danger of such unfriendly influences would grow up as a menace to their security. This, he said, was the secret of the whole position towards Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan, and Siam.

Alluding to the contemptuous attitude of the Thibetan Government in the face of the extreme patience of the Indian Government, his Excellency said:—"I have no desire to push on anywhere. The history of the last five years has been one of consolidation and restraint, but I would suffer any imputation rather than be an unfaithful sentinel, and allow the future peace of the country to be compromised by encroachments from outside, which could only have one meaning."

ATTACK UNITED STATES.

Papers Say Americans Poke Their Nose in Everywhere.

A New York despatch says: St. Petersburg newspapers continue their malevolent attacks on the United States. The Novoe Vremya, in a conspicuously displayed article signed by Souuorine, who headed the recent deputation to the Czar demanding a European combination against America, describes the United States as an insolent parvenu. "Since Europe foolishly permitted her to rob Spain," says Souuorine, "she pushes her nose in everywhere in Asia." The action of the United States representative at New Chwang is greatly disliked.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

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

Toronto, April 5.—Wheat—The market is dull, with demand limited for Ontario grades. No. 2 white and red Winter quoted at 93c low freights. Spring wheat is nominal at 88c east, and goose at 82 to 83c 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 94c. No. 1 hard is nominal at $1.04. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those qpoted.

Oats—The market is steady, with fair offerings and little demand. No. 2 white quoted at 30½ to 30¾c north and west, and 31c low freights. No. 1 white quoted at 32c east, and No. 2 at 31½c east.

Barley—The demand is quiet, with a moderate demand. No. 2 quoted at 44c middle freights. No. 3 extra at 43c and No. 3 at 41c middle freights.

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

Corn—The market is quiet, with prices firmer. No. 3 American yellow quoted at 53½c on track, Toronto; No. 3 mixed at 52½c. Canadian corn is nominal at 38½c west for yellow, and 38c for mixed.

Rye—The market is unchanged, with No. 2 quoted at 60c east and west.

Buckwheat—The market is unchanged, with demand good. 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 $4.30 to $4.50 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—There is a quiet trade, with prices steady at $2 to $2.25 per bbl. for the best stock.

Dried apples—The demand is limited, and prices are easy at 3 to 3½c per lb. Evaporated apples, 5½ to 6c 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 to7½c 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 unchanged with offerings fair. Choice cars are quoted at 75c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 70c per bag.

Poultry—The market is steady with limited offerings. Chickens, 11 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—The market continues steady with the demand good for choice qualities. We quote:—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 17 to 18c; choice large rolls and selected dairy tubs, 15 to 16c; medium and low grades, 12½ to 14c; creamery prints, 21 to 23c; solids, 18½ to 19½c.

Eggs—Receipts are moderate, and the demand slow. Sales of case lots to-day at 22c per dozen.

Cheese—Market quiet at steady prices. We quote:—Finest September's, 11c; late Fall and seconds, 9¾ to 10½c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offerings moderate. Car lots at $6.25, delivered here. Cured meats are in good demand at unchanged prices. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 8½ to 8¾c 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, 13½ to 14c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13½c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 5.—Flour—Firm. Wheat—Spring, No. 1 Northern Duluth, offered at $1.09⅜. Corn—Nothing done; firmer. Oats—Firmer; No. 2 white, 47c; No. 2 mixed, 43½c. Barley—Spot quoted 58 to 63c. Rye—No. 1, 81c.

Milwaukee, Wis., April 5.—Wheat.—No. 1 Northern, $1 to $1.01; No. 2 Northern, 98 to 99½c; old July, 99c bid. Rye—No. 2, 72½ to 73c. Barley—No. 2, 62 to 63c; sample, 38 to 59c. Corn—No. 3, 50 to 51c; July, 52½c bid.

Minneapolis, Minn., April 5.—Wheat—May, 97⅜c; July, 97⅜c; Sept., 83½c; on track No. 1 hard, 99⅜c; No. 1 Northern, 98⅜c; No. 2 Northern, 95⅞c. Flour—First patents, $5.15 to $5.25; second do., $5 to $5.10; first clears, $3.60 to $3.75; second do., $2.65 to $2.75; bran, in bulk, $14.50.