THE RUSSIANS RETIRED

Decided Advance of the Japanese Extreme Right.

RUSSIANS RETREAT.

A despatch from Tokio says:—Army headquarters reports the occupation of Yingen-Cheng, thirty-five miles north of Hing-King, and of Pachiatsu on the Hailung Road, by two co-operating columns. The Russians retired in much confusion. This movement marks the first decided advance of the Japanese extreme right, which has hitherto been much behind the western columns. The report made by Gen. Linevitch of a Cossack raid on the railway near Kaiyuan is not confirmed.

A despatch from Seoul states that on Wednesday last thirty Cossacks appeared near Yingpau, but were immediately repulsed by the Japanese telegraphers stationed there.

IMPORTANT FIGHT SOON.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—A private despatch from Guntzuling says that a large Japanese force is heading towards Kirin beyond the reach of the Russian outposts. A large body of Manchurian bandits is moving north beyond the range of the Russian right.

The Japanese are driving the villagers into the Russian lines, causing great confusion. An important engagement is expected in a few days.

OYAMA NOT YET READY.

A despatch from Hua-Shu Pass says:—The expected Japanese turning movement is not developing, but preparations, it is understood, continue. Reinforcements, food and ammunition are being brought up from New-Chwang. The Japanese outposts extend thirty miles on either side of the railroad.

JAPANESE WARSHIPS.

A despatch from Washington says:—Information has reached here, through Europe, that the Japanese navy has within the last few days commissioned ten new destroyers, built in Japanese ship-yards. It is believed that within six weeks 25 additional destroyers, under rush orders, will be put in commission.

Three hundred and eighty-one mines, planted by the Japanese in front of Port Arthur, have been taken up and planted elsewhere.

ARMIES IN TOUCH.

A despatch from Tokio says: It is reported that the main force of the Russians, which retired in the direction of Hsingking, has reached Kirin. The rear-guard, which is estimated at 12,000 men, continues in the vicinity of Harlungcheng, closely in touch with the Japanese vanguard. The main force, which retired from Kaiyuan, over the Kirin road, is reported at Kirin, with a rear-guard of eight thousand men at Itsuchow, Haklusu and Atsulipao keeping in touch with the Japanese forces.

Changchen is evidently the rallying point of the Changtu and Fakumen forces. Although a force, estimated at thirteen thousand men, has been detailed to occupy Fenchu, and three thousand men to hold Pamienchen, the latter force seems assigned to check and retard the Japanese advance.

The following official announcement was made on Friday:—"Our force advancing eastward via Fushun and Hailung road encountered and defeated the enemy on the morning of the 12th at Erhoulu, seven miles east of Yingpan. The enemy's strength was one regiment of infantry, six squadrons of cavalry and four guns. Our force then occupied Tsangshih, about 19 miles west of Yingpan. The enemy n retreating toward Hailung fought at every step.

"The enemy on the Kirin road has gradually retreated since the 11th, a portion of this force still remaining to bar the passage of the Yushu River.

"No change has occurred in the Changtu or Fahkmen districts except occasional cavalry skirmishes."

A despatch from Gen. Linevitch, dated April 13, to Emperor Nicholas, says:—"Our cavalry April 9th destroyed the railroad and wires near Yakutzu, and between Kaiyuan and Changtu, and April 10 the cavalry cut the telegraph line near Kaiyuan."

100,000 AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

A despatch from Tokio says:—It is reported here that the Russians are continually reinforcing the garrison at Vladivostock, and that the work of strengthening the fortress is progressing constantly. It is said that the plans of the Russians contemplate a garrison numbering 100,000 men with 500 guns. Many additional batteries, redoubts, barriers and pits are in course of construction and enormous amounts of ammunition are being accumulated. The Russians, it is said, hope to so equip the fortress that it will be capable of withstanding a siege.

VLADIVOSTOCK SQUADRON.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—There is an embargo on news from Vladivostock concerning the Russian cruisers Rossia, Gromoboi, and Bogatyr, and it is supposed, though the Admiralty does not confirm the supposition, that they have put to sea to effect a diversion and prevent mine-laying. Considerable irritation is manifested in naval circles at the activity of British ships in Chinese waters, which are reported to be steaming from Hong Kong to Singapore, and their action is attributed to a desire to keep in touch with the Russian squadron and report its movements to the world at large and to great Britain's ally in particular, as happened in the case of the British armored cruiser Sutlej, which arrived at Singapore, Straits Settlement, yesterday, and reported having passed the Russian second Pacific squadran at daylight, April 11, steaming north.

STOESSEL CONDEMNED.

A despatch from Cracow says:—According to a newspaper here, the commission appointed to enquire into the surrender of Port Arthur has condemned Gen. Stoessel, who surrendered the fortress, to be shot. The sentence is a formality, it not being intended to execute it.

READY TO RENEW BATTLE.

A despatch from Paris says:—Captain Rode telegraphs to the Matin that he has been the guest of Gen. Kaulbars, commander of the second Manchurian army, at the Russian front. His observations showed that the Russian army had been reinforced and is prepared to renew the battle. The troops manoeuvre daily in battle formation.

The Japanese cavalry advance guard, the despatch adds, is barely ten miles away, and frequently cavalry skirmishes take place. The prisoners captured have sabre cuts on their heads, showing hand-to-hand skirmishes.

WILL CAPTURE VLADIVOSTOCK.

A despatch from Washington says: Field-Marshal Oyama plans to capture Vladivostock before the Russian fleet, or any part of it, can reach that port. This information has been received here through trustworthy channels. For the Japanese the capture of Vladivostock would be a trump card. The thawing of the soil and the muddiness of the roads is a factor now working heavily against them. But if they succeed they will have checkmated a possible Russian move—the assemblage of a part of their fleets at this strong base, and subsequent harassment of Japanese shipping and raids on transports.

In laying out their strategy the Japanese have tried to foresee all possible contingencies. Among these is the chance that Rojestvensky may be able with a part of his fleet to escape Togo's ships and make his way to Vladivostock. Even if there should be a pitched battle between the squadrons and the Japanese were decidedly the victors in the engagement, a considerable number of Russian ships might make their way to the naval base, and, by strengthening the defence there, make it a much harder nut to crack afterward. If the land forces of Japan can capture Vladivostock during the coming three or four weeks, or before the survivors of Rojestvensky's fleet can get there, a great point will have been scored.

The Japanese believe they can take Vladivostock during the coming month. Almost any time now may come news of the arrival of Gen. Kawamura's army before the city. It is well known that Oyama is making a flank movement in force toward Kirin and to the eastward thereof. This force is supporting Kawamura, who should now be near the city.

NEW RUSSIAN LOAN.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times says a report is published that the Government intends to shortly float another loan of 250,000,000 roubles ($125,000,000). It is reported that the former loan has not yet been fully subscribed for.

WEIGHING OF CHEESE.

Hon. Sydney Fisher Confers With the Trade at Montreal.

A Montreal despatch says:—Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, came to the city on Friday for the purpose of holding a conference with the cheese trade relative to the problem, which is a rather vexed one, of the weighing of cheese. The conference with representatives of the Montreal Butter and Cheese Association took place Friday morning in the council chamber of the Board of Trade. Representatives of the various country cheese boards were also present, and gave their views on the matter in question. With these the Minister will be able to devise a uniform method of weighing, which will be binding on the trade.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, April 18.—Wheat—Ontario The market continues dull, with buyers and sellers apart, quotations being $1.02 to $1.04 for No. 2 red and white, spring 96c and goose 89c, Manitoba, for delivery at lake ports on the opening of navigation, firmer; quotations are:—No. 1 northern, 99½c; No. 2, 96c; No. 3, 89c.

Flour—One lot was sold at $4.70. Quebec, with bags, equal to about $4.20 here. The market is easier with 90 per cent. patents quoted at $4.35 to $4.45, buyers' sacks, east and west, 15c to 20c higher for choice. Manitoba, $5.50 to $5.60 for first patents, $5.10 to $5.40 for second patents, and $5 to $5.30 for bakers'.

Millfeed—Continues firm and scarce, with the general market at $17 for bran and $18.50 to $19 for shorts. Manitoba, $21 for shorts and $19 for bran.

Barley—Dull; 46c to 47c for No. 2, 44c to 45c for No. 3 extra, and 43c for No. 3 malting outside, Toronto freights.

Rye—Nominal; 69c to 70c for No. 2 f. o. b. outside.

Corn—47c to 48c for yellow and 46c to 47c for mixed f.o.b. Chatham freights; American, No. 3 yellow, 55c to 55½c; mixed, 54¾c to 55c on track Toronto.

Oats—40c to 41c for No. 2 white, 42c east.

Rolled Oats—$4.35 for cars of bags and $4.60 for barrels on track here; 25c more for broken lots here and 40c outside.

Peas—68c to 69c for No 2 west and east, and 70c for milling.

Buckwheat—59c to 60c east and west.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—Quotations are unchanged.

Creamery, prints	23c to 25c
do solids	22c to 23c
Dairy tubs, medium	16c to 17c
do inferior	14c to 15c
Dairy lb. rolls, good to choice	21c to 22c
do large rolls	19c to 20c
do medium	17c to 18c

Cheese—Is firm in tone and quoted unchanged at 12c for large and 12½c for twins.

Eggs—The tone of the market is slightly firm, although eggs are selling at both 14½c and 15c.

Potatoes—Offerings are plentiful and the market is easy in tone. Ontario, 60c on track and 65c to 70c out of store; eastern, 60c to 65c on track and 70c to 75c out of store.

Cheese—Ontario fall white and colored, at 12c to 12¼c.

Eggs—New laid at 15c.

Butter—Finest creamery, 24c; roll tutter, 22c to 23c in baskets.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, April 18.—The demand for all kinds of oats is light; No. 2 oats are quoted at 45½c to 46c in store, and No. 3 at 44½c to 45c. and Peterboros at 42½c on track. No. 2 peas are quoted at 76c afloat, May.

Flour.—Manitoba strong bakers', $5.30 to $5.50, and patents, $5.60 to $5.80. Ontario straight rollers, in bags, $2.50 to $2.55; in barrels, $5.35 to $5.45; patents, $5.70 to $5.80.

Millfeed—Manitoba bran, in bags, $18 to $19 per ton; shorts, $20 to $21. There is very little Ontario feed to be had, and prices are about $16 per ton higher than Manitoba.

Hay—Prices are easier at $9 to $9.25 for No. 1, $8 to $8.25 for No. 2, and $7 to $7.50 for shipping hay.

Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $16.50 to $17.50; light short cut $16.50 to $17; American cut clear fat back, $20; compound lard, 6½c to 7c; Canadian lard, 6¾c to 7½c; kettle rendered, 3½c to 9½c; according to quality of hams, $1.20 to $1.23; bacon, 12c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $9 to $9.25; mixed, $6.25; select, $6.50 to $6.65 off cars.
cut pork, $16.50 to $17.50.

Baled Hay—The market is easy in tone and is quoted unchanged at $8 per ton for No. 1 timothy in car lots on track here, and $7 for mixed and clover.

Baled Straw—Car lots on track here are quoted unchanged at $6 per ton.

BUFFALO MARKETS.

Buffalo, April 18.—Flour—Steady. Wheat—Firm; No. 1 carloads, $1.13. Winter stronger; No. 2 red, $1.10. Corn—Strong; No. 2 yellow, 54½c; No. 3 corn, 52c. Oats—Unsettled; No. 2 white, 34½c; No. 2 mixed, 33c.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, April 18.—The run was fairly large, but not sufficiently so to supply all demands, and prices for all kinds of cattle advanced 10c to 20c per cwt., and in some cases 25c. Trade for all classes of cattle was brisk.

Export cattle, choice	$5.25 to	5.75
do good to medium	5.00	5.20
do others	4.75	5.00
Bulls	4.50	5.00
Butchers' good to ch'e.	5.00	5.50
fair to good do	4.60	4.90
mixed lots, medium	3.75	4.50
do common	3.00	3.50
do cows	2.50	4.50
Bulls	2.50	3.50
do common to fair	3.75	4.50
Feeders, short-keep	4.25	4.50
do 10 to 11 cwt	4.40	4.75
do 9 to 10 cwt	4.00	4.50
do bulls	3.40	3.80
Stockers, good	3.00	4.00
do fair	2.75	2.90
do rough to com	2.00	2.60
Bulls	1.75	2.50
Milch cows, each	30.00	70.00
Export ewes, per cwt.	4.75	5.50
do bucks, per cwt	3.75	4.50
Mixed sheep	4.50	5.00
Lambs, ewes and weathers	7.25	7.75
do bucks	6.50	7.00
barnyard do	5.50	6.50
spring do. each	3.00	6.00
Calves, per lb	8½	5½
each	2.00	8.00
Hogs, selects, per cwt.	6.25	0.00

KILLED WIFE AND CHILD

A Terrible Murder Committed at Penetanguishene.

A Penetanguishene despatch says: "I was jealous, and they abused me and started to kick me on Wednesday night outside our house. So I hit my wife on the head with an axe, and when Annie, the little girl, screamed, I hit her too. I killed them both and then stabbed them with my pocket knife to make sure of the job. Then I stripped their clothes from them and hid their bodies in the cellar beneath the house."

That, in bold, gruesome outline, is the confession made by Alexander Desroches at the coroner's inquest held here on Thursday afternoon to investigate the terribly brutal murder of Mrs. Desroches and her 13-year-old daughter Annie, at their house, a squalid-looking structure, near the railroad track, at the west end of the town, on Wednesday night at 8.30.

Desroches, who is a French-Canadian of about 35 years old, assigns no cause for the deed, beyond the fact that he was angry and jealous. Desroches told his story to the coroner's jury coolly and quietly, and showed no trace of insanity. He has always borne a fairly good character in the neighborhood, and has never been convicted before of any criminal offence. There are no traces of insanity in his family, which includes a number of well-to-do people in Tiny Township, near this town. He has, however, been always regarded as being a little "soft" mentally. The murdered woman, whom he married some four years ago, had eight children before marriage, and her name was Mrs. Margaret Priske.

THE MURDERER'S STATEMENT.

His sworn statement, as made to Crown Attorney J. R. Cotter, of Barrie, and the jury is substantially as follows:

"I am the husband of the murdered woman, Maggie Desroches. I know what happened at our house on Wednesday night. I was splitting wood there about 8.30 o'clock when Annie Priske came home and asked where her mother was. She went to Ward's a neighbor's house, to look for her, but did not find her. When she came back I told her I did not know where her mother was, as she had not been at the house. Annie went away again, and soon came back with her mother. They abused me and kicked me outside the house Then I picked up an axe and hit my wife on the head. She never moved afterwards. Annie screamed, and I hit her, too, with the axe. Then I dragged them both inside the house, and, as Annie still showed signs of life, I hit her again with another axe. I had broken the first axe when I hit her. I undressed them both and hid their bodies in the cellar. I also stabbed them both with my pocket-knife to make sure they were dead. I did not know what I was doing. I was very angry. They had both quarreled with me that morning when I went to work. I washed the blood stains off the floor, so that they would not show, and then threw their clothes in the cellar."

The two axes and the pocket-knife were submitted in court as evidence. Desroches had a few blood stains on his clothes when arrested.

Desroches is a well-built man, clean shaven, and of intelligent appearance. He cannot speak English, and his evidence was given to the court through an interpreter. He is not easily angered, and those who have known him for years are most surprised at the horrible deed to which he has confessed.

MASSACRES ARE FEARED

Russian Authorities See Shadows of Coming Tragedy.

A London despatch says: The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that well grounded fears are entertained by the public authorities and private citizens that the anarchy which now prevails throughout the empire may shortly culminate in a series of sanguinary massacres. Dark shadows of this tragedy are already falling and exerting a paralyzing influence. Owing to the threatening outlook troops that are needed by Gen. Linevitch are kept back, the Agrarian Reform Commissions have been dissolved, every kind of meeting has been forbidden, and plain writing and speaking are severely punished, while industrial and commercial enterprise is numbed. How profoundly the Government believes in forthcoming troubles may be inferred from the circumstances that already sixteen recently mobolized regiments of Cossacks, whose departure was countermanded, have been disturbed in districts in which the troubles are expected to be most serious and in the industrial centres of Riga, Libau, Dvinsk, Yazovva and Kazan.

The correspondent cites further indications that the internal conditions are most gloomy. He intimates that May day is likely to see an outbreak of extensive riots. He says that bombs are being manufactured in large quantities in St. Petersburg and the provinces.

90,000 MEN NEEDED.

Cry From West for More Assistance in Farm Work.

A Winnipeg despatch says: "Extending over the whole of this year, Manitoba will require the help of about 90,000 incomers for seeding, haying, harvesting and farm work generally," said J. J. Golden, Provincial Immigration Commissioner. "This is a substantial increase over last year, when about 50,000 were brought in for that purpose. The class of immigrants coming to this province this year is much superior to that of any previous one."

Reports from the "Soo" Line are that settlers are pouring into the West from the States in unprecedented numbers.

The Canadian agent in Mexico says Canadian winter apples, carefully selected and packed, will find a good market there.

THE CHILDREN ESCAPED

Fire Occurs in the Sunnyside Orphanage, Toronto.

A Toronto despatch says: Two hundred children at the Sacred Heart Orphanage, Sunnyside, had as narrow escape from death on Saturday night as they will probably ever have again, and escape. At 10 o'clock a fire was discovered in the north wing of the building in a clothes press. Electric wires are supposed to have caused the fire. An alarm was sent in, and all the reels in the western portion of the city responded. Luckily the fire was soon extinguished, and the damage amounted to only $200, covered by insurance.

The orphanage is three storeys in height. The nearest hydrants are 200 yards from the building, one at Maw's boat-house, and one on Sunnyside Avenue. On the top floor of the building about seventy children, all under five years of age are kept, and had the fire gained headway these children would surely have been burned. Some of the larger children were taken into the long halls, but did not have to leave the building.

LONDON CHURCH CENSUS.

Methodists Lead, Anglicans Second—Only One Infidel.

A London, Ont., despatch says: Figures of the church census in this city were given out on Wednesday night, and show adherents here of 27 different sects. The returns for the more prominent bodies were as follows:—

Methodists	11,225
Anglicans	8,545
Presbyterians	7,123
Baptists	3,756
Roman Catholics	3,385
Congregationalists	515

One infidel was included in the returns.

WHITES DRIVE OUT JAPS.

British Columbians Object to Oriental Labor.

A Vancouver, B.C., despatch says: Oriental labor has been driven out of a mill at Salmo. A party of thirty-three men, ten of whom were Chinese and twenty-three Japanese, were taken from this city to the Kootenay shingle mill at Salmo. The whites refused to allow the Orientals to leave the station, and forced them to take the next train to Nelson, the nearest station. The company say they require the Orientals, and cannot work without them. Another attempt will be made, with the aid of the provincial police, to land the Asiatics in Salmo.

CRANE COLLAPSED.

Eleven Men Killed in Russian Navy Yard.

A St. Petersburg despatch says: There was a crane disaster at the Putiloff Iron Works on Tuesday. A crane collapsed and crashed down upon two gunboats, breaking the decks and killing eleven men and wounding fifteen.