

JAPS FAIL AT PORT ARTHUR

Russian Fleet and Forts Spoil Admiral Togo's Scheme.

PORT ARTHUR ATTACKED.

A St. Petersburg despatch says: Under cover of darkness early on Sunday Vice-Admiral Togo made another desperate attempt to bottle up the Russian fleet in Port Arthur, but he failed again, and when after daylight Vice-Admiral Makaroff steamed out to give battle, the Japanese commander refused the challenge and sailed away.

The Japanese practically repeated the tactics of Feb. 24, by sending in four ships, preceded by a torpedo flotilla, with the exception that the five ships this time were armed with Hotchkiss guns for the purpose of keeping off the Russian torpedo-boat destroyers.

The enemy's attempt was discovered by means of shore searchlights and a heavy fire was opened from the batteries and from two gunboats, which were guarding the entrance to the harbor.

The Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Silni was outside on scouting duty, and to the dash and nerve of her commander, Lieut. Krinitski, is chiefly due the complete defeat of the plans of the Japanese. He at once made straight for the oncoming ships under a hail of fire from the Hotchkiss guns, and torpedoed the leading ship, which sheered off, followed by the others, three of them being piled up on shore under Golden Hill, and one under the lighthouse. The Silni engaged the entire six torpedo boats of the enemy, coming out from a terrific fight with seven men killed and her commander and twelve other of her complement wounded. On the Japanese side only one boat's crew was saved. In addition, according to unofficial reports, it is believed that the Japanese lost two torpedo boats.

The Japanese cruisers, which supported the attack, exchanged shots with the batteries, and drew off after Vice-Admiral Makaroff took a steam launch and examined the fire ships.

An hour later the Japanese torpedo-boat flotilla, followed by Vice-Admiral Togo's fleet, came up from a southern direction.

Just at daylight, Vice-Admiral Makaroff, with his fleet, sailed out to engage the enemy, but after the ships and batteries had fired a few long distance shots Vice-Admiral Togo decided to decline the issue and disappeared to the southward.

The news of the repulse of Vice-Admiral Togo's second attempt to block the harbor of Port Arthur created much rejoicing in the Russian capital, and among all classes the gallantry of the Silni and her commander is given high praise; but above all, the moral effect of Vice-Admiral Makaroff's willingness to engage the enemy, showing that he considered himself strong enough to fight produced a splendid impression.

70,000 JAPANESE.

A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph, from St. Petersburg, says there are about 60,000 Japanese troops at Ping-Yang and 15,000 at Anju and north of that place to Pakohon. From General Mishchenko's report it may be gathered that the army now advancing against Southern Manchuria comprises roughly 55,000 infantry, 4,500 cavalry, 3,600 artillery, with 180 guns, 3,000 military engineers and 3,000 transport troops. The Russian authorities consider this force inadequate for attacking Manchuria, though the artillery is recognized as being very strong compared with Russia's 196 guns, distributed throughout the Far East at the commencement of the war.

RUSSIA IS READY.

Russia is ready for actual war. The mobilization of the Manchurian army is complete, and Gen. Kourapatkin, the commander-in-chief, has arrived at Mukden. Russian troops have been placed to resist any attack on New-Chwang, and it is not believed that Vladivostok is in any immediate danger from the land side.

KOUROPATKIN'S FORCES.

Major-General Count Pheil, of Germany, retired, estimates that the Russian forces at the disposal of Gen. Kourapatkin number 181,805 men, with from 540 to 660 guns, which are sufficient, he says, to carry on defensive operations until reinforcements shall have arrived from Russia.

COSSACKS AND JAPS.

News has just been received at St. Petersburg that a considerable force of Cossacks is operating east and south-east of the Japanese line of communication between Anju and Ping-Yang with the object, apparently, of preventing a junction of the Japanese troops who have landed on the east and west coasts of Corea. Scouts belonging to this force captured near Chasan, thirty miles south-east of Anju, a party of Japanese scouts with a Corcan guide. They extracted from the guide a statement that 8,000 Japanese infantry and several field guns had arrived at Yangtek from Gensan, af-

ter crossing five passes with the greatest difficulty owing to the slippery going. The passes were covered with snow, the surface of which was alternately thawed and frozen. Frequent avalanches added to the trials of the passage of Masulion Pass, which is 2,700 feet high. The worst difficulties, however, were met in the Aobinon Pass. The Japanese, who marched in four columns, arrived in an exhausted condition. Many of them were on the sick list. Immediately the news reached Gen. Linevitch sent two Cossack divisions from Sunchon and Soukchon to operate along the road from Ping-Yang to Yangtek. They occupied the Town of Soutchen and the Pouriguan Pass, west of the town. Three sotnias of Cossacks were sent across the mountains to stop the Japanese advance. The Cossacks expect to intercept and attack the Japanese as they leave the Mamounion Pass. The country there about is very difficult, and it is hoped that, owing to this fact and the probable exhaustion of the Japanese, that the latter will be unable to make a serious resistance.

MUST FIGHT AT THE YALU.

The London Times prints a Seoul despatch, dated March 24, which was sent by despatch boat to Wei-Hai-Wei. The correspondent does not refer to such operations as despatches from St. Petersburg report. On the contrary, he says that there is little doing beyond Ping-Yang, as the Russians are merely keeping in touch with the Japanese. Evidently there will be no contact until the Japanese army at Ping-Yang attempts to cross the Yalu River. He adds that Japanese outposts have reached Unsan. The Russians are reported to have fortified both sides of the river at Wiju, while a strong detachment occupies the point where the road from Unsan crosses. The Japanese cannot well deviate from one or the other of these lines of advance, owing to the nature of the country.

OPENING OF YONGAPHO.

The correspondent of the London Times at Seoul, referring to Corea's declaration that Yongampho is open to foreign trade, says that if this had been conceded in January the course of events might have been radically altered, but the repeated representations by the British and Japanese Ministers were invariably nullified by the threats of M. Pavloff, the Russian Minister at Seoul, and the distribution of Russian gold among the Corean officials. The question of opening Yongampho did more than any other single cause to precipitate the war.

PORT ARTHUR IMPREGNABLE.

A British merchant, who for three years resided at Port Arthur, has just arrived at Shanghai from that place. He ridicules the alleged unfavorable position of the defenders of the town, and says that the Japanese bombardments have been mostly harmless. Many of their projectiles, being armor-piercing shells, did not explode when they landed ashore. He declares that there are ample supplies in the town, and that the railway is running freely. The battleship Retvizan was the only warship seriously damaged in the various bombardments. The other vessels that were damaged are being repaired rapidly. He believes that it is impossible to capture Port Arthur by assault, and starving it out will be a most difficult undertaking.

98,000 MEN.

A telegram to Rome from Chefoo states that the Japanese landed at Chinampho on last Tuesday 8,000 men, and that the total Japanese force in Corea now is 98,000.

CHINA STILL NEUTRAL.

A despatch to the London Telegraph from Shanghai says that the Dowager Empress has negated the proposal of Viceroy Yuan-Shih-Kai, commander-in-chief of the Chinese military forces, that China conclude an open alliance with Japan in view of Russia's repeated violations of Chinese territory west of the Liao River. Her Majesty counsels patience and a firm attitude.

SPRING IN MANCHURIA.

Gen. Linevitch has telegraphed to the general staff at St. Petersburg that there is no sickness among the Russian troops. They are all in splendid health. Spring weather prevails in Manchuria. Detachments of police have gone to Mukden and Vladivostok, and several additional train-loads of ammunition are on their way to the same places.

KILLED 100 CHUNCHUSES.

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

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 Peking, 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.

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.

The bubonic plague has broken out in several towns in Peru.

Capt. Leontieff of the Russian artillery is charged with selling military secrets to Austria as well as to Japan.

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 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, 13 to 13½c; breakfast bacon, 13c.

Lard.—The demand is fair, with prices firm. We quote:—Tirces, 8 to 8½c; tubs, 8½c; pails, 8½c; compound, 7½ to 8½c.

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; mouille, \$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. Pro-

visions—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, 8½ 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 creamery, 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, 9½ 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.

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 \$1.45 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, \$3.25 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 5½c 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; fat and lights, \$4.75; sows, \$3 to \$3.50; stags, \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt.

WILL EXTEND PRIVILEGE.

Cities and Towns May Amalgamate School Boards.

A Toronto despatch says: The repeated requests of many municipalities that they be extended the same privileges that Toronto enjoys with regard to an amalgamated Board of Education, have borne fruit. In the Legislature on Thursday night, Hon. Richard Harcourt, Minister of Education, introduced a bill to permit all cities and towns to amalgamate their High, Public, and Separate School Boards.

BRITISH ADVANCE.

The Expedition Will at Once Invade Tibet.

A despatch to the London Daily Mail from Pharijong, Tibet, says that Gen. Macdonald, commanding the British expeditionary force, will advance with his main body on Monday. The fighting strength of the expedition is 1,000 rifles, four guns and two maxims. It is expected that the Tibetans will attack between Tuna and Gyantse.

NO SNOW OR ICE.

Canadian Winter Scenes Will Not Be Shown.

A London despatch says:—Arrangements are being made for the celebration in Great Britain of Empire Day on May 24. There will be entertainments, lectures, and concerts, with descriptive recitations from colonial literature, and tableaux representative of the costumes and customs of the colonials, and historical events connected with them are suggested. Canadian scenes of snow and ice will be omitted.

COREANS BEAT COSSACKS.

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