

FIGHTING IN MANCHURIA.

Russians Attempt to Envelop Japanese Outpost But Are Driven Off

RUSSIANS DEFEATED.

A despatch from Tokio says: It is officially reported that last Thursday night the Japanese outposts at Shaotunkau repulsed a Russian attack. At 3 a. m. a force of uncertain dimensions approached an outpost near the Sha River and the railway, but were immediately driven back. At 5 a. m. they renewed the attack on the outpost north-east of the Sha River bridge. The Russian force gradually grew in strength, a battalion enveloping the outpost from the north-east and west simultaneously. There was a heavy rifle fire against Limuntan, but the Russians retired at dawn, leaving a large number of dead. The Japanese lost twenty slightly wounded. In the Hanchang district a detachment of Japanese encountered thirty or forty Russian cavalry towards Sungshukau, who were repulsed with fifteen casualties. The Japanese detachment reached Shantungtze in the afternoon.

JAPS LOSE SHIP.

A despatch from Tokio says: The Japanese cruiser Saiyen struck a mine and sank Nov. 30th. Fifteen officers and 175 men were rescued. Capt. Tajima and thirty-eight others went down with the ship. In the official report of the disaster the Navy Department says that the Saiyen, while co-operating with the army in bombarding Port Arthur Nov. 30th, struck a Russian mine and was seen to be enveloped in smoke. The gunboat Akagi, which was also engaged in shelling Port Arthur, immediately ceased firing and went to the rescue of the Saiyen. Finding that the latter was filling rapidly the Akagi anchored near the sinking ship and, co-operating with the other Japanese ships, launched succeeded in rescuing fifteen officers and 175 men, but Capt. Tajima and thirty-eight others went down with the ship.

BATTLESHIPS SUNK.

A despatch sent from Port Arthur to Tokio on Thursday says that the battleship Peresviet's keel is on the bottom, and that her middle funnel is wrecked. The cruiser Pallada is beginning to list to port. The upper deck of the cruiser Bayan was set on fire and is still burning. The battleship Sevastopol is moored alongside a dock in the east harbor, where she is hidden from sight by the hills. The fire to-day was directed to the Pallada, Bayan and Sevastopol. The sinking of the battleship Poltava was due to the explosion of a magazine aboard of her. She was hit only a few times. It is considered that as 203-Metre Hill commands the communications between the city and Liaotishan the Japanese will be able to prevent the Russians from making a final stand at the latter place.

A correspondent who is with the Japanese forces besieging Port Arthur, in describing the havoc wrought by the fire of the Japanese guns, says that in addition to the warships already named as being sunk or damaged, the gunboats Giljak and Fusad-neck have also been sunk. The torpedo boats alone are intact. It is reported that the Russian counter-attacks on 203-Metre Hill ceased on Dec. 5, and that the attackers have withdrawn towards Yangkau. The Russians have also slackened their opposition to the Japanese sappings of the eastern forts. The defenders are dwindling in number, and are suffering from exhaustion.

WILL SOON FALL.

A despatch from Chefoo says: According to Japanese officers from the front, Dec. 20, will see Port Arthur in their possession completely and Russian resistance on the Kwangtung peninsula will have ended, they believe, forever. When the port finally falls it will not be because of any failure within itself, but because the Russian army and fleet outside of it have failed to play their part in the combination for which the fortress was prepared. The campaign on the peninsula really began when the Japanese on June 27th captured Nanshan, and seized the great line of defenses which the Russians had constructed from sea to sea across the peninsula. Thence onwards the Japanese advance has been continuous.

WILL STARVE THEM OUT.

A despatch from Tokio says:—In disabling the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, precluding the possibility of its being able to reinforce the Russian second Pacific squadron, the Japanese have accomplished the main object of desperate assaults against the fortress which they have been making the past three months. There is now a strong probability that, while continuing the siege, they will avoid losses of the magnitude already attending their efforts, and instead of assaulting, will rely on starving out the garrison until it is finally captured.

NOGI'S SONS KILLED.

A despatch from Tokio says:—In

the fighting of Nov. 30th the second son of Gen. Nogi was killed on 203-Metre Hill. Gen. Nogi's eldest son was killed in the Battle of Nanshan and he is now childless. Imperial army headquarters has published a list of 36 officers killed and 58 wounded. No mention is made of where these casualties occurred, but it was presumably at Port Arthur.

BALTIC FLEET A BLUFF.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says that definite instructions have been sent to Admiral Rojestvensky, commander of the Baltic fleet, not to proceed to the Far East. The Czar took the matter into his own hands and issued the order, despite the opposition of the grand dukes. The Baltic fleet will now probably dawdle at various ports until the possibilities of service are so remote that the public will have forgotten its original mission. The despatch adds that the reports concerning the despatch of a third squadron to the Far East are mere speculations.

AWFUL SCENES.

A despatch from headquarters of the Third Japanese Army before Port Arthur, via Fusan, says: The correspondent of the Associated Press has visited 203-Metre Hill, the scene of the awful six-days' fight, which ended with its capture by the Japanese. The advance works and the crest of the hill were torn away, the slopes of the hill were covered with debris and the trenches were smashed and filled with soil.

In a single section of the trenches one hundred yards long over two hundred Russian dead and wounded were seen. They had been horribly mangled with dynamite grenades.

POOR SHRAPNEL.

A despatch from Mukden says: The Russians continue to bombard the Japanese positions with both heavy and light artillery. The Japanese response is feeble. The Russians have experienced much difficulty with their shrapnel, which should have effectually checked the Japanese attacks during the Battle of Sha River, but failed in many cases. Some of the consignments of shrapnel sent to the front appear to have been almost worthless from poor construction of the shells.

TO ESCAPE SERVICE.

A despatch from London says: Eight hundred Russians, most of whom allege they fled from their homes in order to escape military service in Manchuria, left London on Thursday for Liverpool, on their way to America. These refugees are arriving at the rate of 150 daily.

INDEPENDENT FORCES.

A despatch from Tokio says: As to frequent appearance of Russian troops in the direction of Hsienchang, on the right of the Japanese position on the Sha, it is believed here that they are independent detachments despatched from Fushun, which is 30 miles east of Mukden. There are no Russians in any force south-east of Mukden. Late in 25,000 were sent from the district south-east of Mukden to join the fighting line on the Russian right. The Asahi reports that the Russians heavily bombarded the railway on the lower Sha River throughout Friday afternoon. A large number of Russian wounded were sent north from Mukden on Thursday.

MINOR ENGAGEMENTS.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says: Gen. Sakharoff, under Wednesday's date, reports that the Russian main guard at a village southward of Laotchengulni Pass was driven out on Tuesday by the Japanese artillery after sustaining a few casualties. The Japanese subsequently retired.

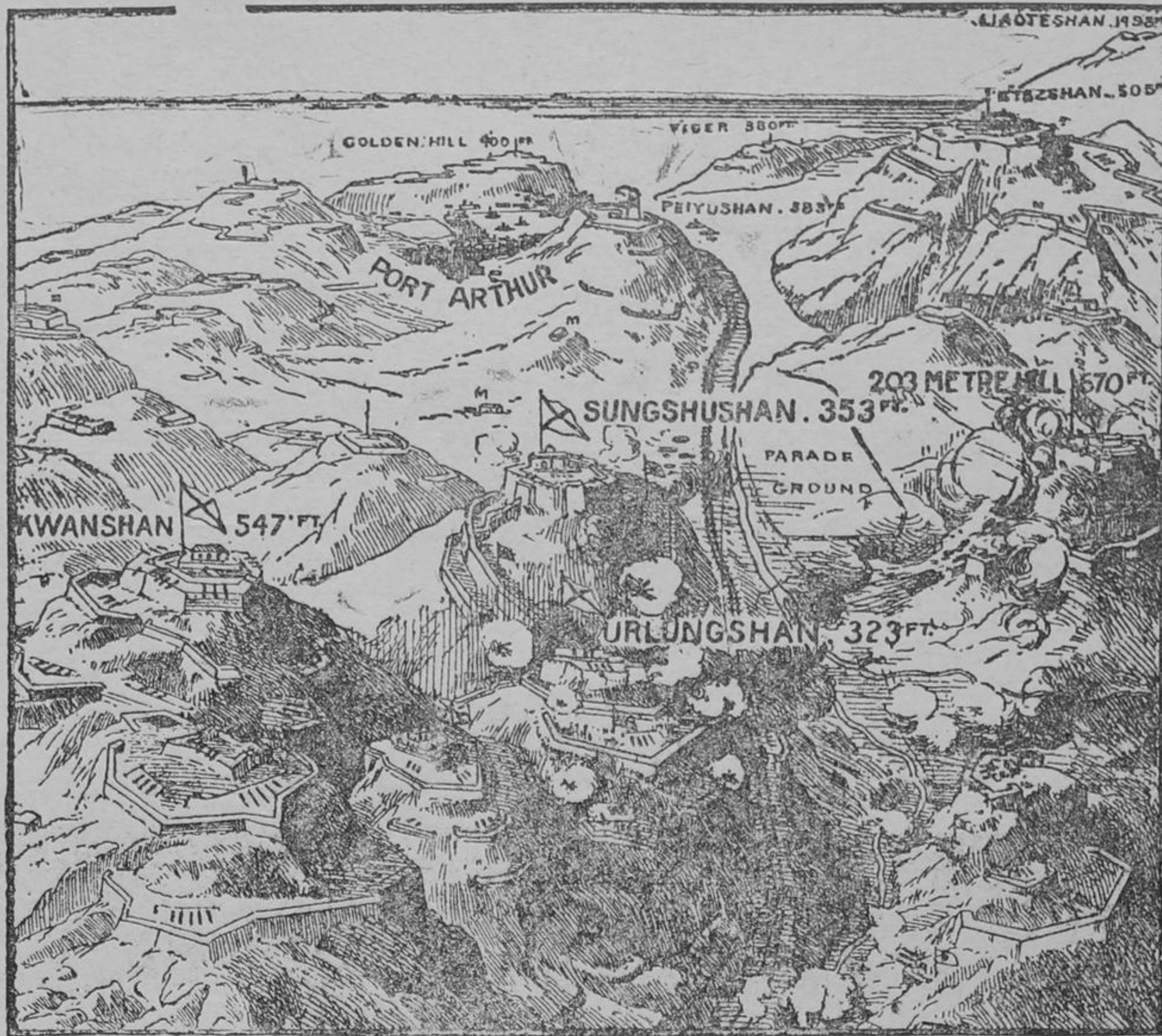
Gen. Kouropatkin, in a telegram to the Emperor, mentions Japanese attacks on Sinchinpu and Soudgainin, both of which were repulsed, and an unimportant outpost affair on the right wing when the Russians routed and bayoneted a Japanese guard.

JAP TROOPS INSPIRITED.

The London Times' correspondent at Tokio says:—According to an official telegram, issued on Thursday afternoon, the Japanese troops at Port Arthur are greatly inspired by the signal successes of the last few days in capturing positions and inflicting damage to the Russian fleet.

A LIGHT WEIGHT.

The London Times' insurance correspondent says:—The progress of the Russian Baltic fleet may be slow, but it should be fast enough to enable the vessels to reach far eastern waters as soon as the coal steamers, which have not yet left this country, can get to Japan by the Cape route. War risks on steamers with coal for Japan are being underwritten at lower rates than a month or two ago. The indifference of underwriters to the Baltic fleet as a fighting or commerce-deceiving force is very striking.



PLAN SHOWING FORTS CAPTURED BY JAPANESE AT PORT ARTHUR.

LEADING MARKETS.

The Ruling Prices in Live Stock and Breadstuffs.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Dec. 13.—Wheat—Ontario—Sellers are now asking \$1, with 99c bid, for red and white; spring is quoted 93c to 94c; goose, 87c. Manitoba, No. 1 northern, \$1.04; No. 2 northern, 99½c; No. 3 northern 93½c, Georgian Bay ports; 6c more grinding in transit.

Flour—90 per cent. patents, \$4.20 to \$4.35, buyers' sacks, east and west, 15c to 20c higher for choice. Manitoba, \$5.35 to \$5.70 for first patents, \$5.20 to \$5.40 for second patents, and \$5 to \$5.30 for bakers'. Millfeed—\$14.50 to \$15 for bran in bulk; \$17.50 to \$18 for shorts, east and west; Manitoba, \$21 for shorts, \$10 for bran, exports.

Barley—Dull; 45c for No. 2, 43c for No. 3 extra, and 41c for No. 3 malting outside, Toronto freights.

Rye—75c to 76c for No. 2.

Corn—New Canadian on cob, 45c; new American yellow easier and more plentiful, 53½c to 54½c new American mixed not so plentiful, 53c on track, Toronto. Old American, No. 2 yellow, 66c; No. 3 at 65c, and No. 3 mixed at 63½c, on track Toronto.

Oats—33c for No. 1 white, east low freights; No. 2, 32½c, low freights, and 32c north and west.

Rolled Oats—\$4.10 for cars of bags and \$4.35 for barrels on track Toronto, 25c more for broken lots here, and 40c for broken lots outside.

Peas—67c to 68c for No. 2 west and east.

Buckwheat—Easier; 54c to 55c, east and west.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—The market is fairly steady and prices unchanged. Creamery, prints 21c to 22c do tubs 19c to 20c Dairy tubs, good to choice 15c to 16c do medium 13c to 14c do inferior grades 10c to 12c Dairy lb. rolls, good to choice 16c to 17c do medium 14c to 15c

Cheese—Steady at 10½c to 10¾c per lb. for large and 10¼c to 11c for twins in job lots here.

Eggs—22c to 23c for new laid, 20c to 21c for fresh and 20c for limed.

Poultry—Turkeys, 13c to 14c for young and 10c to 11c for old. Ducks and geese, 8½c to 9c. Chickens at 5½c to 9c, and hens at 5c to 6c.

Potatoes—Ontario stock, 65c to 70c on track and 75c to 80c out of store. Eastern 75c to 80c on tracks, and 90c to 95c out of store.

Dressed Hogs—Steady at \$6.25 to \$6.30 per cwt. for choice selected weights on track here.

Baled Hay—No. 1 timothy is offered at \$7.50 on track. No. 2 and mixed clover are proportionately lower and not in demand at \$6.50 in car lots on track here.

Baled Straw—Car lots on track are quoted unchanged at \$6 to \$6.50 per ton

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 13.—Grain—Wheat is still out of line as far as export business is concerned. A few sales of car lots of No. 2 white were made at 40c to 40½c, and No. 3 at 39c to 39½c per bushel ex-store.

Flour—Manitoba spring wheat patents, \$5.80; strong bakers', \$5.50; winter wheat patents, \$5.70 to \$5.80; straight rollers, \$5.40 to \$5.50, and in bags, \$2.25 to \$2.65.

Feed—Manitoba bran in bags, \$17 to \$17.50; shorts, \$21 per ton; On-

tario bran in bulk, \$15.50 to \$16.50; shorts, \$19 to \$29; moulie, \$24 to \$28 per ton as to quality.

Meal—The trade in cornmeal is fair at \$1.35 to \$1.45 per bag.

Hay—No. 1, \$9 to \$9.25; No. 2, \$8 to \$8.25; clover mixed, \$7 to \$7.25, and pure clover, \$6.25 to \$6.75 per ton in car lots.

Beans—Choice primes, \$1.40 to \$1.45 per bushel, \$1.35 to \$1.37½ in car lots.

Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, \$16.50 to \$17.50; light short cut, \$16.50 to \$17; American fat backs, \$20; compound lard, 6½c to 7c; Canadian lard, 6½c to 7½c; kettle rendered, 8½c to 9½c according to quality; hams, 12c to 13c; bacon, 12c to 13c; fresh killed abattoir hogs \$7 to \$7.25; heavy fat hogs, \$4.50; mixed lots, \$4.50 to \$5; select, \$5.25 to \$5.40 off cars.

Cheese—Ontario fall white, 10c to 14½c; colored, 10½c to 10¾c; Quebec, 9½c to 10c.

Butter—Finest grades, 20½c to 20¾c; ordinary finest, 19½c to 20c; medium grades, 18½c to 19c, and western dairy, 15½c to 16c.

Eggs—Select new laid, 23c to 24c, and straight gathered candled, 20c to 21c; No. 2, 15½c to 16c.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, Dec. 13.—Trade was brisk in most descriptions of butcher's cattle at the Western Market to-day.

The tone of the trade in butchers' showed an improvement, and buying was more active than a week or so ago. Among the arrivals were a few of the choicer animals, which sold at \$4.25 to \$4.65 per cwt. The bulk of the cattle sold at the old prices through the list. The market also showed an improvement for fair to good cows, and for butchers' and export bulls.

The following were the quotations given for butchers' cattle: Select butchers', \$4.40 to \$4.65; best butchers', \$4.15 to \$4.40; good butchers', loads of, \$3.70 to \$4.10; fair to good, \$3.50 to \$3.70; cows, \$2.50 to \$3.12½; common to rough, \$1.25 to \$2.

The following was the range of prices prevailing in stockers and feeders:—Feeders, short-keeps, 1,200 to 1,275 lbs., \$3.50 to \$4; feeders, 1,050 to 1,175 lbs., \$3.25 to \$3.60; feeders, 800 to 1,025 lbs., \$3 to \$3.35; stockers, 600 to 800 lbs., \$2.25 to \$2.75; stockers, 400 to 600 lbs., \$1.40 to \$2; bulls, 900 to 1,200 lbs., \$1.75 to \$3.

The prices of sheep and lambs were as follows:—Export ewes, \$3.75 to \$3.85; export bucks, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt; cull sheep, \$2 to \$3 each; lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.10 per cwt.

Calves sold at 3 to 5½c per lb., and \$2 to \$10 each.

Hogs were unchanged at \$4.80 for selects, 160 to 200 lbs. of prime bacon quality, off cars, Toronto; \$4.60 for fats and lights.

PROTECTION OF FISHERIES.

New York State Anxious to Co-operate With Ontario.

A despatch from Toronto says:—The action taken by the Ontario Fisheries Department in securing the co-operation of the American States bordering on the lakes for the protection of the fisheries, has borne good fruit. Several of the States have communicated recently with the Ontario authorities in connection with the matter. New York, which was not represented in the conference held some months ago, is now desirous of joining the others in enforcing the law.

LAND OF LIBERTY.

The Pope Speaks Thus of the British Empire.

A despatch from Rome says:—The audience which Prince Arthur of Connaught had of the Pope was most cordial. With Lieut.-Gen. Lord Grenfell, the Duke left the Quirinal, escorted by royal bicyclists, and drove to the British Embassy, where he was met by Monsignor Stonor, Canon of St. John Lateran. Monsignor Stonor then left for the Vatican and the Duke and Lord Grenfell followed him fifteen minutes later. Inside the Vatican everything was prepared with great ceremony. A procession of Papal officials, accompanied by a large guard, escorted the Duke to the door of the Pope's apartment. The Pontiff said he was exceedingly gratified with the Duke's visit, adding that it was a pity his stay in Rome was so short. The Pope expressed great esteem and veneration for King Edward, "who is not only King of England, but of the whole world, as the sun never sets on his dominions." Continuing, the Pontiff said he knew Great Britain thoroughly enjoyed liberty and well understood its meaning. The missionaries coming to Rome from all parts of the British Empire spoke of the great degree of liberty enjoyed in the colonies. The audience lasted ten minutes.

AUSTRIA'S ULTIMATUM.

Sultan Must Remove Customs Officials at Scutari.

A despatch from Vienna says:—Unless the Ottoman Government dismisses and punishes by noon Thursday the gendarmierie commander and the Customs officials at Scutari, who recently forcibly detained the Austrian-Hungarian mails, Austria will order a naval squadron that is now lying ready at Pola to carry out a demonstration at some Turkish port. The Austrian Ambassador's prompt complaint against interference with the mails was treated with the customary Turkish procrastination, and Austria becoming weary, instructed the Ambassador to deliver an ultimatum to the above effect. Austria recognized the possibility that such a strong policy would irritate the European Governments, but resolved to run all risks rather than suffer a diminution of her prestige in the Balkans. Probably the Porte will yield but even if it does, the fleet is likely to cruise in the Levant for some time to emphasize Austria's displeasure and to show her readiness to uphold the inviolability of national rights.

WILL RUN FULL TIME.

Drop in Price of Raw Material Benefits Cotton Companies.

A despatch from Montreal says:—For the first time in two years the leading cotton companies, such as the Merchants' Cotton Company, the Dominion Cotton Company, and the Montreal Cotton Company, have decided to place their mills on full time, and it is certain that the various plants will be run to their full capacity for many months to come. This action is due almost entirely to the big decline in the price of raw cotton. The opinion held by the officials of the leading cotton companies is that there is not likely to be any decline in the finished cottons, as contracts have all been made for the Spring trade.

Two Port Colborne boys, Norman Gilmore and Harry Ashenden, were drowned while skating on the lake on Saturday.