

EIGHT DESTROYERS ESCAPE

Report That Remnant of Russian Squadron Got Away Safely.

DESTROYERS ESCAPE.

A despatch to the London Telegraph from Chefoo says it is reported that eight Russian torpedo-boat destroyers have escaped from Port Arthur.

KAMIMURA IS SCOUTING.

The Tokio correspondent of the London Express says that Admiral Kamimura's squadron, which is believed to be somewhere in the southern part of the China Sea, is regarded rather as an observing than a fighting squadron.

It is not believed that Admiral Rojestvensky, commanding the Baltic fleet, will come as far east as Saigon, but Japan does not propose to be caught napping. Practically the whole of Admiral Togo's fleet is ready to start southward at a day's notice. If the Baltic fleet is sighted he will abandon the blockade of Port Arthur and sail to meet it. The Ministry of Marine is flooded with applications from officers of admirals Togo's fleet for permission to serve with Admiral Kamimura.

CONCEALED IN WOOL.

The London Times' correspondent at Peking reports that the Chinese have seized at the Fengtai station, near Peking, three million rounds of Russian rifle ammunition consigned to a Russian firm at Tien-Tsin, and evidently designed for Port Arthur. The ammunition was concealed in bales of wool brought from Kalgan on camels.

STILL RUN BLOCKADE.

A despatch to the London Times from Peking says that occasionally junks with ammunition and provisions still succeed in running the blockade of Port Arthur, although the price paid is costly. For every junk that is successful it is estimated that three are sunk by the Japanese. As all contraband transactions are financed by the Russo-Chinese Bank, detection is not difficult.

LANDED WAR MUNITIONS.

A despatch to Tokio from Sasebo says that the British steamship King Arthur, which was captured by the Japanese guardship Asagiri on Dec. 19, while endeavoring to escape from Port Arthur, had landed a cargo of munitions of war outside the harbor, under cover of the battleship Sevastopol.

PRESENTS FROM ENEMIES.

A despatch from Mukden says—Volunteers on the night of Dec. 21 occupied Japanese trenches opposite their positions. Three trenches were evacuated by the Japanese with scarcely a fight. The victors were surprised to find a box lying in plain view, which they opened carefully, fearing that it might contain explosives, but they found in it wine, biscuits and sweets, and a letter in Russian, politely requesting its acceptance, "from disturbing neighbors."

RUSSIANS REPULSED.

A despatch from General Oku's Headquarters, via Fusan, says:—The Russians along the front of General Oku's army during the night of Dec. 20 made a determined attack on Lamuting but were driven back with heavy loss. The Japanese sustained no casualties.

Dismounted Russian cavalry attacked the cavalry on the extreme left of the Japanese line on the night of Dec. 20-21, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

Small detachments of Russians nightly attacks the Japanese outposts and patrols but with no success.

OCCUPIED THE HEIGHTS.

A despatch received at Tokio by telegraph on Thursday from the Japanese army before Port Arthur says:—

"The right column of the army at 5 o'clock Thursday morning, taking advantage of the enemy's excitement, drove them off an eminence north of Housanyentao on Pigeon Bay and occupied the position, and at 7 o'clock dislodged the enemy from a height on the peninsula west of Housanyentao, which we occupied, capturing one small gun. After the Japanese occupation of the positions the enemy made a counter-attack, but was immediately repulsed. At present our occupation of the position is practically secure."

AN EXCUSE TO END WAR.

A despatch to St. Petersburg says:—The Russian authorities have received information confirmatory of the Novoe Vremya's statement of Wednesday regarding the Chinese situation, indicating that the Japanese influence is predominant not only in the anti-foreign societies, but in the army and at Peking, forcing the conviction here that the situation is becoming critically dangerous. The

belief prevails that in the Spring Japan, under the cover of an actual or threatened rising in China, will seek to secure the intervention of the powers to end the war. Direct evidence exists that the anti-foreign proclamations circulating in China are printed in Japan.

JAPS DRIVEN FROM FORT.

According to the Chefoo correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph it is reported there that the flanking fire from other forts and the explosion of Russian mines have forced the Japanese to evacuate It-seshan fort, northward of 203-Metre Hill, with serious losses. It is stated that Gen. Nogi, the Japanese commander at Port Arthur, has asked for 60,000 reinforcements. Many have already arrived from the north.

Concurrently with the blowing up of Kikwanshan fort a Russian shell struck the fort on 203-Metre Hill, exploding a store of shells and grenades the Japanese had gathered there. Great damage was done, and there were many casualties.

The unnamed height that was captured by the Japanese at the same time they captured the Kikwanshan fort is called Taotishan. It is crowned by a newly constructed Russian fort. After the Japanese had captured it the Russians bombarded the position, but the Japanese guns on 203-Metre Hill protected it, and the Russian fire slackened. Since then there has been desultory firing.

The value of Kikwanshan fort at present is less than 203-Metre Hill, because it is more or less commanded from the neighboring hills, especially one 130 yards to the westward, which must be sopped. It is estimated that the Japanese losses in taking Kikwanshan fort were only 400.

GUNS CAPTURED.

A despatch from Washington says:—The following cablegram, dated Tokio, Wednesday, has been received at the Japanese Legation:—"Port Arthur army reports our trophies at the battle of the north fort of Tukschwanshan were four quick-firers, whereof two are usable, four machine guns, all usable, and five field guns, which are under examination, besides rifles, shells, ammunition, grenades, etc."

SEVASTOPOL DISABLED.

A despatch from Tokio says:—Admiral Togo, who has personally made a series of observations of the Russian battleship Sevastopol, telegraphs to the Navy Department expressing the opinion that the Sevastopol is disabled. Great weight is attached to Togo's personal observations and opinion, instanced by the fact that when the Russian battleship Petropavlovsk was sunk Togo was one of the few officers of the entire Japanese fleet whose eye caught the vision of speedy disaster. Commander Yezoe, who was killed while torpedoing the Sevastopol, has been promoted and has been given other posthumous honors.

STEAMER RUNS BLOCKADE.

A despatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Chefoo says that the steamer Lady Mitchell, flying the British flag and having a Norwegian crew, reached Port Arthur from Tsingtao last Saturday night. She carried a cargo of ammunition and dynamite, and took advantage of a snowstorm to run the Japanese blockade of the port.

BOATS STILL SEAWORTHY.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—While declining to give details, the Admiralty admits that Russian advisers from Port Arthur sent by Gen. Stoessel substantially confirmed the Japanese advice of the partial wrecking of the Russian ships in the harbor and the censor has been instructed to permit the publication of the despatches. It is claimed that several of the larger ships and a respectable number of torpedo-boat destroyers are still seaworthy, but that they are not being considered as a factor in the coming fight between Admiral Togo's ships and the Russian second Pacific squadron. If the fortress is relieved it is believed that most of the ships will be raised and saved.

The reports that a Japanese squadron of 40 vessels had already sailed to meet the second Pacific squadron is regarded at the Admiralty here as being incorrect and circulated for a purpose.

SCOUTS AMBUSHED.

Thirty-Seven American Troops Slain in Philippines.

A despatch from Manila says:—The Pulajanes have ambushed and killed at Dolores, on the Island of Samar, a lieutenant and 37 enlisted men of the 38th company of native scouts. Two thousand Pulajanes, it is reported, threaten the town of Dolores, and the situation is said to be critical. Lieut. Abbott, in command of the scouts, has requested that aid be sent him.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

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

Toronto, Dec. 27.—Wheat—No. 2 white and red Winter quoted at 97 to 98c outside; No. 2 goose quoted at 84 to 85c east and No. 2 Spring at 98c east. Manitoba wheat unchanged; No. 1 Northern quoted at \$1.04; No. 2 Northern, 99c and No. 3 Northern at 93c, Georgian Bay ports. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats—No. 2 white is quoted at 32 to 32½c low freights, and at 31½c north and west; No. 1 white is steady at 32½ to 33c west.

Barley—No. 2 quoted at 45c middle freights. No. 3 extra, 43c; and No. 3 at 41c middle freights.

Peas—The market is steady, with dealers quoting 67 to 68c at outside points.

Corn—The market is quiet, with new Canadian quoted at 42 to 43c west, guaranteed sound. New American yellow, 52c on track, Toronto and new mixed at 51½c, Toronto.

Rye—The market is unchanged at 74 to 75c at outside points.

Buckwheat—The market is quiet and steady, with No. 2 quoted at 51c high freight, and at 52c low freight.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are quoted at \$4.25 to \$4.40 in buyers' sacks, east or west. Straight rollers of special brands, for domestic trade, in bbls. \$4.75 to \$5. Manitoba flours unchanged. No. 1 patents, \$5.40 to \$5.50; No. 2 patents, \$3.20 to \$5.30, and strong bakers', \$4.90 to \$5.10 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed—At outside points bran is quoted at \$14.50, and shorts at \$17.50 to \$18. Manitoba bran, in sacks, \$18 and shorts at \$21.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—The market is firm for choice stock at \$1.75 to \$2.25 per barrel; cooking apples, \$1 to \$1.50 per barrel.

Beans—Trade is fair, and prices unchanged, with prime quoted at \$1.35 to \$1.40, and hand-picked at \$1.45 to \$1.50.

Cranberries—The market is unchanged at \$8 per barrel.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 32 to 35c, according to quality.

Honey—The market is quiet, at 7½ to 8c per lb. Comb honey, \$1.50 to \$2 per dozen.

Hay—Car lots of No. 1 timothy are quoted at \$8 to \$8.50 on track here, and No. 2 at \$6.50 to \$7.

Straw—Car lots are quoted at \$6 to \$6.25 on track, Toronto.

Potatoes—Car lots are quoted at 75 to 80c per bag, on track; jobbing lots at 90c to \$1.

Poultry—Spring chickens, 8 to 9c; hens, 5½ to 7c per lb; ducks, 9 to 10c per lb; geese, 8 to 9c per lb; turkeys, dry plucked, 12 to 13c; do., scalded, 10 to 11c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 18 to 18½c; ordinary to choice large rolls, 16 to 18c; low to medium grades, 14 to 15c; creamery prints, 22 to 23c; solids, 20 to 21c.

Eggs—The receipts are moderate, and prices are steady. Case lots of fresh are selling at 22 to 23c per dozen, and lined at 20c.

Cheese—The market is firmer, with large cheese quoted at 10½c, and twins at 11½c per lb.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offerings moderate. Car lots are quoted at \$6 to \$6.25. Bacon, long clear, 8 to 8½c per lb. in case lots; mess pork, \$14 to \$14.50; do., short cut, \$17.50 to \$18.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12 to 12½c; do., heavy, 11½ to 12c; rolls, 9 to 9½c; shoulders, 8½ to 9c; backs, 14 to 14½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c.

Lard—Tierces, 7½c; tubs, 8c; pails, 8½c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Dec. 27.—Grain—Oats, 40 to 40½c for No. 3 in store here; No. 3, 39c to 39½c; corn, new American yellow, \$4 to 55c, guaranteed to arrive sound; 60c in store for No. 3 mixed; buckwheat, 54½ to 55c.

Flour—Manitoba patents, \$5.80, and strong bakers', \$5.50; high Ontario blended patents, \$5.75 to \$5.80, in wood; choice, 90 per cent patents, \$5.50 to \$5.60 in wood, and 25c per bbl. less in shippers' new bags; straight rollers \$2.50 to \$2.55 and 25 to 30c extra in wood. Rolled oats—\$2.12½ to \$2.13 per bag, and \$4.50 to \$4.85 in bbls. Feed—Ontario bran, in bulk at \$17 to \$17.50; shorts, \$19 to \$19.50; Manitoba bran, in bags, \$17 to \$18; shorts at \$21.

Beans—Choice primes, \$1.40 to \$1.45 per bushel, \$1.05 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 clear fat backs, \$20; compound lard, 6½ to 7c; Canadian lard, 6½ to 7c; kettle-rendered, 8½ to 9c; hams, 12 to 13c; bacon, 12 to 13c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, \$7.20 to \$7.25; heavy fat hogs, \$4.75 to \$5; mixed lots, \$5 to \$5.15; selects, \$5.25 to \$5.35, off cars.

Cheese—Ontario Fall white, 10½ to 10½c; colored, 10½ to 10½c; Quebec, 9½ to 10c. Butter—Finest grades, 21 to 21½c; ordinary finest, at 20 to 20½c; medium grades, 18½ to 19½c; and Western dairy at 15½ to 16½c.

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

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Dec. 27.—Flour—Steady. Wheat—Business light; Spring, No. 1 Northern, \$1.18; Winter, No. 2 red, \$1.20. Corn—Firm; No. 3 yellow, 49½c; No. 3 corn, 44c. Oats—Firm; No. 2 white, 35c; No. 2 mixed, 33½c. Barley—Western, in store, 45 to 55c.

Milwaukee, Dec. 27.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.13 to \$1.15; No. 2 Northern, \$1.05 to \$1.09; May, \$1.11½ to \$1.11½ asked. Rye—No. 1, 77½c. Barley—No. 2, 52c; sample, 36 to 50c. Corn—No. 3, 43 to 43½c; May, 45 to 45½c asked.

Duluth, Dec. 27.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.10; No. 2 Northern, \$1.04; December, \$1.10; May, \$1.13.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, Dec. 27.—The demand for choicest classes was well maintained, but medium heifers and steers and cows were not in active enquiry. Hogs were weak and unchanged, while lambs were 5 points higher.

The following were the range of prices:—Exporters' cattle were quoted at \$4.25 to \$4.90 per cwt.

The following were quotations given by butchers' cattle:—Select butchers', \$4.35 to \$4.50; good butchers', loads of, \$3.70 to \$4.25; 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 \$3.60; 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, \$4 to \$4.25; export bucks, \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt.; cull sheep, \$2 to \$3 each; lambs, \$5.25 to \$5.90 per cwt. Calves sold at 3 to 5½c per lb. and \$3 to \$10 each.

Hogs were unchanged at \$4.75 for selects, 160 to 200 lbs. of prime bacon quality, off cars, Toronto; \$4.50 for selects, 160 to 200 lbs. of prime bacon quality off cars, Toronto, \$4.50 for fats and lights.

SERIOUS STATE OF AFFAIRS

Pennsylvania and Ohio Mills Without Water.

A Pittsburg despatch says: It is feared that within the next ten days almost every industry in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio will have to close down. The drought is the worst in the history of this part of the country. The weather bureau cannot see any relief in sight. There is only half a foot of snow on the level. If this melted it would only be equal to six-tenths of an inch of rain and it will take at least one inch of rain besides to be of any benefit.

The Edgar Thompson Steel Plant has ordered a large part of the plant to close down. The furnaces have no coke, and the boilers are all corroded with the sulphur from the coal mines.

In the country districts, especially in the mountains nothing but melted snow can be had for watering stock or for house use. Firemen have hung up their hose in scores of towns. Mines have closed after using sulphur water until corrosion had eaten boilers and pipes to a shell. This is working a hardship as fuel cannot be had. The south is suffering for coal, and not a mine along the Monongahela River is in operation. Streams that have never been dry within memory of man, have not been covered with water for a month, and pools are frozen solid.

Workmen at the National Tube Works, the Duquesne and Homestead Mills say conditions at those places cannot be explained, and orders to close down are expected hourly. The furnaces of the Shanango and Mahoning Valleys have only two more weeks coke on hand. Even if the Connelville region can supply the coke, the railroads cannot haul it, and this at a time when the boom in iron and steel is at its best.

The Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads are suffering from the drought. Most of the engines being used by the Pennsylvania between here and Harrisburg have been disabled by the eating away of the boilers which has been caused by the poor water used. The troughs lying between the tracks which held water that the engines scooped up in passing, are dried up and the engines must be supplied from other reservoirs of water at the disposal of the company.

WANDERER IN THE WOODS.

Man Found at "Soo" Crazy by Cold and Hunger.

A despatch from Sault Ste. Marie says: On Wednesday a man was found wandering in the woods about three miles from here in a crazed condition through suffering from cold and hunger. His name is supposed to be Griggs, but nothing can be learned as to where he came from or who his relatives are. About a year ago he went into the woods 25 miles, and built a log cabin, and lived on what he could kill and dig from the ground. He was taken to the hospital, but is as yet unable to tell his story on account of his sufferings. He seems to be a man of mystery.

A POWERFUL GUN.

Navies Would Be at the Mercy of New Cannon.

A Paris despatch says:—Great interest has been caused here by recent experiments with a new cannon, a secret invention. The most recent tests were made at Havre last Sunday in the presence of M. Berteaux, Minister of War, and fifty deputies and senators.

The new cannon has a calibre of 9½ inches, firing a projectile weighing 359 pounds. The principal merit of the invention is its extreme simplicity of mechanism. Three men can operate it; one to sight and one to attend the breech, while the duties of the third are a secret depending upon the invention.

The shell fired has a muzzle velocity of five hundred metres (1,640 feet), a second and produces a whistling noise heard a mile and a half away.

So powerful is the force of the shot, it is said, that no ship of any navy would be able to withstand it. Although fired 480 times, the gun was apparently undamaged, whereas usually the life of a big cannon is five hundred shots.

A French military expert, discussing the new cannon, estimates that one hundred such cannon would adequately protect the entire coast of France. The cost of the cannon is said to be \$100,000 including its quota of projectiles.

TRIED TO SAVE HIS CASH

Winnipeg Real Estate Owner Burned to Death.

A Winnipeg despatch says: John Currie, an old resident of the city, was cremated in his house, which was destroyed by fire a few minutes after midnight, on Friday, and residents of adjoining buildings had narrow escapes from sharing his horrible fate. Probably only the fortunate discovery of the accident by a passing pedestrian, and the prompt action of neighbors, averted a holocaust of the people. The flames were eating into the other buildings when the brigade arrived. The buildings were of frame structure, close to Louise Bridge. When the brigade arrived a ghastly sight awaited them. The dead body of the old man lay near the door, where he had fallen when overcome in an effort to escape. The remains were burned to a crisp, and evidently he had sacrificed his life in attempting to save a cash-box, which was found under his head.

THE PROFITS OF WAR.

Krupps Make a Tremendous Sum on Their Year's Work.

A Berlin despatch says: The first balance sheet of the firm of Friedrich Krupp, Limited, just issued, shows a gross profit on the year's working of just five million dollars.

Rather more than half this sum goes to depreciation account, workmen's pension, and other funds, and the reserve fund, leaving \$2,200,000 to pay a dividend of six per cent on the capital. The capital amounts to \$40,000,000 in 160,000 shares, 159,996 of which belong to Fraulein Bertha Krupp and four to as many high officials in the company.

Private telegrams from Essex state that the section for the manufacture of naval material is working at high pressure, large orders having been received by Krupps both from Russia and Japan for armor plates and gun barrels.

RABIES DUE TO FEAR.

Chicago Man Died of the Disease He Feared.

A Chicago despatch says:—Fred Johnson, 32 years old, is dead of hydrophobia, although he declared he never had been bitten by a mad dog. He became ill last Sunday and some time before his death attacked his wife and two small children. Then he was fastened to save the family from injury during his attacks of frenzy. Johnson owned a pet dog which last July was bitten by a rabid dog, and the man constantly worried over the matter. Finally a policeman killed the pet. A physician diagnosed Johnson's case and declared the man contracted rabies because he constantly was fearing hydrophobia.

TRAINS MET IN A FOG.

Many Killed and Injured in French Railway Wreck.

A Paris despatch says: During a dense fog, which completely disorganized traffic, the London-Boulogne express ran into the Lille express outside the North Station, on Friday, smashing the last carriage of the Lille Express. Six corpses have been recovered, and it is feared that more are under the engine. A score of wounded have been taken to hospitals. All the victims are French.

BIG OIL PROPERTY DEAL.

275 Acres of Property in Petrolia Sold.

A Petrolia, Ont., despatch says: One of the biggest oil property deals put through here for some time was negotiated on Friday, when Messrs. Dr. J. E. Wilkinson and John McCarty sold their entire interests in the 275 acres of oil property to New York capitalists.