SCIENTISTS FIND A NEW FUEL.







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Preparing To Go To War

Empress of Japan Brings News of the Activity of Brown Men to Get Ready.

Significant Orders to Arsenals For Supply of Horse-Shoes For the Icy Country.

Fleets of Rivals About Equal U Japan Well Equipped Financially For War.

News was received by the Empress of Japan which left Japan on December 25th, that active preparations for war were being made. The newspapers were filled with reports of engagements of transports, mobilization of troops, stocking and provisioning and other preparations for war. Some were undoubtedly exaggerations, but there was no doubt that Japan was putting the final touches on her formidable sea and land armamente. On December 24th the Chuwo reported that the government had peremptorily chartered the Chibo Maru, 2,300 tons, and that the Chouwo reported that the Government had peremptorily chartered the Chibo Maru, 2,300 tons, and that the Chyo kisen Kaisha liner America Maru would likely be chartered.

A SIGNIEFICANT ORDER.

The Jimmin stated that the Tokio arsenal had received an urgent order from the military authorities for 80,000 horseshees. The significance of this order lies in the fact that the shoes were not to be of ordinary type, but sharpened for use in an ice-bound country. This was deemed very significant by Japanese warships at Sasebo have been docked one after the other and their bottoms treated with some special preparation. The Shikishima, flagship of the commander-in-chief of the standing squadron, was the last docked.

At Sasebo, the Kure naval port, ship-

At Sasebo, the Kure naval port, ship-yard workmen were being massed, stores of ammunition hurried on board the warships and all shore leave of seamen stopped. Similar activity prevailed at the Yokosuka naval port.

NEW FLEET REGULATIONS.
Revised fleet regulations have just been gazetted, extending the cruising sphere of the Japanese squadron, which had been limited to Japanese coastal waters and the southern coast of Korea. In the case of special movements the naval commander in chief has been

The Nichi publish the latest official returns of the naval strength of the various powers in the Eastern Pacific, showing the comparison between Russia and Japan, as follows:

Japan—Battleships, 6; armored cruisers, 6; cruisers of over 16 knots, 12; gunboats of over 20 knots, 2; tonnage, 210,036.

Russia—Battleships, 9; armored cruisers, 5; cruisers of over 20 knots, 1; gunboats over 20 knots, 2; tonnage, 208,886.

The comparison of torpedo destroyers, coast defence ships and torpedo boats is:

boats, 85.

Russia—Destroyers, 32; no armored coast defence ships; other coast defence ships and gunboats, 10; torpedo boats, 14.

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

boats, 14.

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

It was generally considered that the next conference between Barons Komura and Roson, expected to take place early in January would be the last, and if no settlement was then reached, Japan would go to war. At the last conference on December 21st, lasting an hour, it is stated that Baron Komura firmly informed the Russian representative that it would be impossible for Japan to continue the penning negotiations on the basis of the latest Muscovite reply received after an interval of forty-two days. The Japanese minister suggested that the St. Petersburg reconsider the reply. Baron Rosen accepted the suggestion and recommended reconsideration.

"THER USSIAN WAY."

Since then nothing has been heard, excent rumors that Russia was determined to delay matters. Count Lamsdorff in notifying Baron Komura of the accept of Japan's suggestion, intimated that owing to domestic troubles the Czar was inaccessible and some time lamight elapse before state action was taken. The publication of this report excited bitter comments in the Japanese press, which is tired of Russian procrastination. The activity manifested in both branches of the executive arm of the Japanese government following Count Lamsdorff's reply were most significant.

"GOT THE MONEY TOO."

The Kokumin Shimbun deals at

"GOT THE MONEY TOO." "GOT THE MONEY TOO."

The Kokumin Shimbun deals at length with the financial position of Japan in regard to war. This paper says, so far from being unfavorable for belligerent purposes, as generally believed, the Japanese financial position is exceptionally strong. Japan has 113 million yen in specie at the Central Bank. The present year's budget shows a surplus of 41½ millions of yen, which was to have been applied to various undertakings, but could be used for warlike purposes.

purposes.
The banks of Japan have been cautioned by the government against making too free loans, as a war loan might be required by the authorities.

BLIZZARD WEATHER.

Buffalo, Jan. 2.-Zero weather and a forty-mile gale accompanied by a heavy fall in some sections of Western New York today, delayed railroad traffic somewhat and rendered country roads impassable.

Columbus, Jan. 2.—A blizzard has raged throughout central and northern Ohio for the last twenty-four hours. Traffic on steam and electric roads has been generally abandoned. been generally abandoned.

Boston, Jan. 2.—Railroad trains were delayed and street car service seriously hampered in Boston tonight because of a heavy snowstorm which began early today. A foot of snow covered the ground tonight. The storm is general throughout New England and the maritime provinces. time provinces.

Hanghan, Mass., Jan. 2.—The coast was storm swept tonight. The storm was the most severe since that of November, 1898. Shore trains were abandaned. doned, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Blizzard weather prevailed today. The thermometer was at zero. Trains were badly delayed.

A committee has now been formed in Paris to erect a public monument to the memory of the carrier pigeons that rendered such signal service during the siege of Paris.