

COSSACKS IN COMING LAND BATTLE

Russia Has an Advantage in Her Superior Cavalry—Courage of Japanese is Matched by Them.

New York, March 16.—James Creelman writes to The World: In the impending land battle Russia will have an important advantage over Japan in the matter of cavalry. The Japanese army has ordinarily less than 10,000 mounted men while the Russian army has at least 117,000 horsemen.

The Russian Cossacks must play a tremendous part in the land fighting. They are the only hereditary soldiery in Russia. Every generation of them carries with him the heroic traditions of the samurai. They are his inspiration, his courage, his strength.

These fierce horsemen, who form the vanguard of the autocrat's forces in Manchuria, are descended from the democratic people of Asia. There was a time when the Cossacks elected their own rulers or khans. They lived by the sword, like the samurai of Japan, and until they lost their independence they maintained a primitive republicanism, and so fearful were they of monarchy that their khans, elected by popular vote, could only serve a year at a time.

So free was the spirit of the ancient Cossacks that they fought first for one country and then for another—now for Russia, now for Poland and now for the Sultan, or even the Tartar Khan.

But when under their great leader Mazepa they served Charles XII, of Sweden against Russia, Peter the Great deprived them of their privileges and destroyed their military organization, which was the Cossack brigades, Yermak, who, in the reign of Ivan the Terrible,

explored and conquered Siberia and thus earned his pardon from the czar. The Cossacks, alone of Russia's armed forces, are imbued with the military instinct. The rest of the army is a conscript mass without individual initiative and without any traditions of drill. The ordinary soldier is a dull, patient man, who receives for pay about thirty-four cents every three months, and is almost useless without an officer. The Cossacks, however, furnish their own horses and equipment, except rifles and ammunition, which are supplied by the government, and find their own food by foraging—most of the time.

But unlike the descendants of the Japanese samurai, who have austere and noble traditions of self-sacrifice and a separate literature, the Cossacks inherit the sentiments and methods of ruthless robbers.

The Cossacks of Siberia, who are now swarming in front of the Russian army in Manchuria, held the same place subject to the feudal military obligation of their race. When the czar's messenger rides the Cossacks, carrying a red flag in the daytime and a red lantern at night, shouting, "The emperor calls for aid," they must report at once, with horse and equipment, to the nearest military post.

These men are the backbone of Russian authority in Siberia. They are to be found everywhere from the Mountains to the Pacific. It is said that the conditions of life on the Siberian plains have become so severe and the Cossacks have grown so poor that until they have in many cases been unable to furnish their horses for service in the war against Japan, and that probably explains why Russia has been shipping so many horses over the Siberian railway.

It is certain, however, that before many weeks events in Manchuria or Korea will show whether the Cossacks are the terrible fellow he is said to be, or merely, as some say, a fanatic brigand who will fight and steal when offered, but run away when his leader is killed. He is a better cavalryman and a keener scout than the Japanese, but the question now is whether he is as good a soldier in modern conditions.

What the Salvation Army Aims to Do There.

The World had an interview yesterday with Lieut.-Col. Bruno Friedrich, editor of The War Cry, and one of the best known members of the Salvation Army in Toronto, with regard to the proposed mission to the Territory of Alaska and British Columbia. The colonel, having spent several years in Alaska and being thorough familiar with the language, manners and customs of the different Indian tribes, talked interestingly.

The work of evangelizing and civilizing the Indians has made such rapid progress in the Territory of Alaska that the officers at present on the spot are unable to cope with the work. The object of the present mission is to send to the Territory of Alaska, and to the Yukon, a number of men, who will be met by the Indian Superintendent Whittington and other prominent officers, who will return with them.

When asked as to the present status of the army in Alaska and British Columbia, the colonel replied: "Let us deal first with British Columbia. We have a corps at Fort Essington, Fort Simpson and Glen Vowell. At Fort Simpson and Esnaig Thorsdottir are in charge of these settlements, which consist of officers' quarters, schoolhouse and barracks built by the Indian nationalists. Glen Vowell is situated on the River Skeena, twenty miles from Fort Essington, and is the headquarters of the North British Columbia and Yukon Territory. There are not less than twelve large carmenies located around Fort Essington. Glen Vowell has also twenty nice buildings, nearly all frame structures, and divided into four quarters, each with a family of five or six persons, and possessing a splendid garden.

There are altogether between three and four hundred native Salween Indians in British Columbia. The Indian is an excellent imitator, but a poor imitator of the white man. He is not, but you must say, "Come, let us do this." The success of our officers among them is mainly due to the fact that they set the example in everything.

The ancient traditions governing the morals of the Indians before the white man's arrival were very strict, but upon the construction of the new railway, they were able to enter into general competition in the open market. Beaver-town was particularly interested in the construction of the road, as it would bring that village from fifteen to eighteen miles by rail nearer to the City of Toronto.

The railway as projected will pass through five townships in the County of York, one of which, the Township of Georgetown, is without railway facilities. The representatives of the board of trade pointed out that the whole Province of Ontario was interested in securing shorter and more direct connection with the west. Manufacturers and carriers, fruit and seed growers, had been crippled in their business by reason of inadequate railway facilities.

The premises was asked that, when assistance was granted to the James Bay Railway, it should be upon a stipulation that the Canadian Pacific Railway should be given running rights over the tracks of the company. It was hoped by the deputation that if the Ontario government gave the road assistance, within a very short time the Canadian Northern and the Canadian Pacific railways would be running from Toronto to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. This would be a benefit not only to the City of Toronto, but to all of the cities and municipalities in the Province of Ontario.

The several deputations, when asked by the premier as to what form of assistance in their opinion should be granted to the railway, suggested that a guarantee should be given the bondholders of the company, and it seemed to be the opinion that the province would in this way enable the company to finance its undertaking with cheap money without incurring any expense. The board of trade and the different municipalities represented presented to the premier resolutions passed by the different bodies interested calling upon the government to aid the company in its enterprise.

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