

CHINESE ACTUALLY RESISTED

The Capture of Wei Hai Wei Was the Bloodiest Fight of the War.

A Graphic Description of the Fall of China's Second Stronghold.

Tokyo, Feb. 16.—Per steamer City of Peking via San Francisco, March 2—Wei-Hai-Wei will be remembered in the history of this war as the first spot at which the early promise of the Japanese was interrupted by serious and prolonged resistance on the part of their enemy. The town itself, from which the naval station derives its name, together with its formidable and elaborate chain of land defences, was captured with the usual facility, and wherever the Chinese were free to escape they disappeared before anything like severe fighting was attempted on either side. But those who found themselves surrounded at the beginning of the affray seemed animated by a spirit of defiance wholly out of keeping with the previous attitude and actions of their countrymen. This change of conduct is attributed by some to the presence of a few foreigners among the besieged; by others, to the wild desperation which fastened upon the garrison when their position was discovered to be hopeless and death appeared inevitable.

The harbor of Wei-Hai-Wei is to the south of the entrance of the Gulf of Pechili, what Port Arthur was to the north. Its possession was not really essential to the Japanese, whose navy had free access to the gulf, but its capture was thought desirable, partly as a brilliant addition to the prestige of the conquerors, and partly to set at rest all anxiety with respect to the still powerful fleet commanded by Admiral Ting.

After a successful landing toward the close of January, the march inland from a bay near Yungching began on the 29th and 30th of that month, and before evening of the last named day the heights overlooking the harbor were reached and the first group of forts at Pochiyai were taken. The contest at this point was severest in which the Japanese troops had been engaged. Their losses were not heavy in number, being limited to less than one hundred in killed and wounded, but the death of the general commanding the brigade of the sixth or Kumamoto division was a veritable calamity. Of fighting leaders the Japanese army has profusion, but with skilled students of strategy it is not so liberally provided. Major-General Odera was sagacious in planning campaigns as he was energetic in executing them. It was he who laid out the movement against Port Arthur. He was the first of his high grade to fall in the war. The forts seized by the Kumamoto brigade were four in number. Most of their guns were in good order and were immediately turned on the Chinese ships and batteries on the islands in the bay. Meanwhile the second grand division from Sendai proceeded along the coast of bluffs, driving the enemy like sheep before them. No opposition worth speaking of was offered, and the works on the opposite or western headland would have been promptly captured but for a sudden downfall of blinding snow, which brought military operations to a standstill. The soldiers suffered greatly from exposure to the piercing cold, and it was not until the morning of February 2 that the task allotted to them was accomplished. Not a soul confronted them as they entered the fortifications. The garrisons had all flown, but not without leaving some evidences of thoughtfulness and caution behind them. The big cannons had been thrown from the walls or otherwise rendered useless, and the expectation of training them upon the coast was given over. The share of the army in reducing Wei-Hai-Wei was practically at an end.

Small parties of engineers and artillerymen were set to work planting mortars and guns at advantageous spots, and some of these were afterwards served with decisive effect. But the main interest of the proceedings was transferred to the lower level of the bay. Admiral Ito's ships had been much more hardy dealt with by the tempest than General Oyama's soldiers. The latter had found shelter of some sort, while the fleet was not beaten about by raging winds that its position outside of Wei-Hai-Wei could not be maintained, and for three days, from January 31 until February 2, it was obliged to take refuge in the waters of Yungching, more than a score of miles away. The Japanese admiral had intended to commence his attack on January 30. At the outset little could be done with his men-of-war, owing to the difficulty of entering the harbor. The island of Liudung, several miles long lies at its mouth, leaving a channel on either side. That at the west is open, but not at all places navigable for large vessels. That at the east is intersected by a small island. The openings have been blockaded by a strong barricade of chain cables and spurs, forbidding access to strangers, and allowing a passage outward only to pilots familiar with the line of obstructions. The Chinese ships within occupied a basin fifteen or more miles in length by five or six in depth. With this space at their disposal they could not easily be reached by artillery from any points held by the Japanese troops. Their only resource then was to torpedo boats. If a breach could be made in the barricade, these compact messengers of destruction might burst in among the ironclads and all alone accomplish their errand of destruction. Six of them were selected to undertake the exploit on the night of January 30, but through some "unlucky" blundering they were met by a heavy fire from their friends in the Pochiyai forts as they were endeavoring to force the eastern channel. This compelled a postponement of twenty-four hours, but before the newly designated time had come a

snowstorm was driving the entire body of ships, large and small, far away from the scene. Three days were thus lost, and no attempt was made until the night of February 3, when the torpedo boats renewed their attempt. Again they were unsuccessful, the barrier proving impassable for that occasion. But a good beginning had been made, and on the following night the flock of giant-killers made an aperture about one hundred yards broad, and after carefully picking their way through, bore down at topmost speed upon the Chinese flagship, which, even in the blackness of midnight, was distinguishable by its huge bulk. At a distance of four hundred metres they sent their torpedoes plunging ahead, repeatedly discharging until the supply was exhausted. The big ironclad was not immediately sunk, but it was wounded to death. Its side was torn away, and the injury inflicted was so serious that Admiral Ting is said to have lost no time in transferring his quarters to the Chen Yuen, the second of the Peiyang fleet which, though recently badly damaged by running upon the rocks, had been sufficiently repaired to take her part in the line. Other Chinese vessels were also struck, and one, supposed to be a gunboat, was sent to the bottom. Four of the torpedo boats returned to their station outside the harbor, though one of them had been hit 47 times, and all were pretty badly knocked about. Two were destroyed, and many of their crews were killed by the fire of the enemy, or frozen to death after having swum ashore.

On the night of February 5 a fresh torpedo squadron was sent to continue the work and made an end of two, if not three, of the Chinese cruisers, without themselves suffering as severely as their predecessors. It was afterward learned that the little craft had been instrumental in sinking the Lal Yuen, Wei Yuen and Tang Yuen, together with several smaller vessels.

On the morning of the sixth only four of the once redoubtable Pei Yang division of the Chinese navy remained fit for service. The large ships of Admiral Ito's fleet had thus far done little but shell the forts on the two islands. On the 6th they rested entirely, beginning anew with redoubled energy. By this time the gunners on the shore were able to co-operate effectively, especially on the western edge of the harbor. Soon afterward one of their shells exploded a magazine on Ji island, tearing asunder the wall of the fort and compelling the garrison to hurry to Liukung. While the assailants were cheering one another over this piece of good fortune, a more exciting incident followed. A flock of Chinese torpedo boats broke away from the main body behind Liukung, and two or three light-draft steamers steered through the barricade near its western end, and raced along the shore toward Chefoo. Their speed was not equal to that of the first Japanese flying squadron which set off in chase with such alacrity that the fugitives were all overtaken within two hours. Some were run down and sunk, others disabled by quick-firing guns and the balance were driven into the bay to the east of Chefoo, where most of them surrendered. A few ran ashore, and being deserted by their crews, were made powerless for further mischief before the pursuers returned to their duty at Wei-Hai-Wei. The situation of the defenders was now pitiable indeed. An incessant cannonade was directed at them from the heights, where heavy long-range pieces had been placed, and the places where they found shelter in the early days of the combat no longer afforded protection. The soldiers in the forts were less liable to be slaughtered than those on board the ships, but even their ranks were gradually thinned while their efforts at retaliation were totally ineffective. Though they would probably have fought desperately to the end, in hard to hand conflict, their energies appeared to sink as their destiny was seen to be inevitable.

On the ninth of February considerable activity was displayed, two of the ships endeavoring to dislodge an inconvenient battery at a western headland, but from that date the energies of the Chinese steadily diminished. The assailants were now content to wait patiently for the end, which was not long deferred. On the 12th a formal offer of surrender was made under a flag of truce, Admiral Ting proposing to give over everything at his disposal on the condition that the lives of all who served him, especially the foreigners, should be spared. His action is gravely censured, the universal opinion being that if he could no longer hold out he should have found means to destroy valuable property in his control, instead of delivering it up to the conquerors. His terms, however, were promptly agreed to and on the following day the Japanese began the work of taking over the four large ships left in serviceable condition, several gunboats and torpedo crafts, the artillery of the forts and the stores of ammunition and food. Even now there is considerable uncertainty as to what the victors have acquired. Many of the Pei Yang squadron are so similar in appearance that it is not clearly ascertained in all cases which were sunk and which saved. Respecting the Chen Yuen there is no doubt. She is much hurt but can be repaired. There are hopes, indeed, that the Ting Yuen and a few others may be raised and successfully floated. However viewed, the result is of prodigious importance to the winning side. The losses of the Japanese throughout the campaign have been slight, the severest casualties having been those of the torpedo crews. Reports are conflicting as to whether the Chinese losses are yet known. It is rumored in Tokyo that after order is restored at Wei-Hai-Wei and the military situation at Shingking becomes quieter than at present, the Emperor of Japan may proceed to China and establish his headquarters in some fortress recently captured by his army. No official confirmation of the report can, however, be obtained.

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ALL OVER THE PROVINCE.

British Columbians Enjoying Fine Spring Weather While Easterners Shiver.

Farmers and Miners Are Commencing Their Season's Work—Other News.

KAMLOOPS.

Mr. Wentworth F. Wood, Indian agent, returned on Wednesday morning from a trip to Vernon, where he had to settle a difficulty which existed among the Indians living at the head of Okanagan lake. Since old Chief William died two years ago there has been no head to the tribe, and a meeting was held to elect one. Louis Jim received the greatest number of votes, but he, though sober and industrious and holding a great influence with his tribesmen, is a pagan, and insists on wielding all the powers attaching to that position in former days. He wants to try all offenders himself and declares that he will give up no prisoners except those guilty of murder.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. R. H. Buchanan, foreman at the Homestake mine, went up with a load of supplies and material. Among it was the iron for the car track along the tunnel, and the car for conveying the ore. Development work will be continued by a force of seven men, who will follow the vein some distance and then make an uprise to the surface. The ore will be stored for shipment.

Capt. S. F. Scott, of Vancouver, was in the city on Tuesday to see the gold commissioner, Mr. G. C. Tunstall, on business connected with the claims in the Similkameen held by companies in which he is interested. He went back to Spence's Bridge on Tuesday night, and there met Capt. Copp, who brought up a number of men to go into Granite creek to begin ditching on the claims there.

Mr. Harry Simcoe, of New Westminster, the well-known shipbuilder, has received a contract from Mr. Joseph Genelle, of Tappen Siding, to build a stern-wheel steamer which is intended to be run on Shuswap lake and Thompson river as a freight and passenger steamer.

Political matters have begun to move in anticipation of a Dominion general election. On Saturday night quite a large meeting of Mr. Mara's supporters was held in a part of his former store. Mayor Lee was chairman and Mr. Bennett secretary. A resolution was made and carried unanimously that Mr. Mara be tendered the nomination for the approaching elections. Mr. Mara accepted in a short speech, in which he thanked his friends, and asked their generous support. Other short speeches were made, and afterwards a general committee formed. Another meeting was held on Wednesday night, and still another will be held to-night. Mr. Bostock's supporters met in the parlor of the Dominion hotel, when a requisition to him was resolved on, and it has since been taken around for signatures. Mr. Mara went up the line on Monday morning, while Mr. Bostock is expected in from Kootenay, but Saturday morning.

There is a scheme in hand under the guidance of one of our best known mining men, to form a syndicate with strong capital to operate as purchasers of claims from small mine owners, and eventually to sell concessions to wealthy corporations, but this is being done in South Africa at the present moment. Through the medium of such a syndicate no doubt prospectors will reach the investor and be placed in a position to do something with their discoveries. At present the average British Columbia prospector is helpless and his claim, in many cases of great promise, remains in an elementary stage of development for the want of a few hundred dollars at the right moment. The lot of a prospector under favorable circumstances is not at all hard, but he is able to lay the matter before a company prepared to enter into such a business, his property might be the means of handsomely repaying his efforts in prospecting it, and the utilization of such discovery would add much to the wealth of the province.

REVELATOKE.

For the past week the weather has been remarkably mild and the snow is melting fast, but there is still from three to four feet on the level. Considerable ice is floating in the river and reports from the Big Bend way would indicate that the river is breaking up, and that an early spring is in prospect.

The labor question on the government works seems to be unsettled yet. The exact steps to be taken by the powers that be are shrouded in mist. One thing which is known is that the men are working for \$1.50 per day. One man who claims to have been engaged by the engineer as a boss has quit work because the foreman did not recognize him as such and wanted him to work for laborer's wages. As a consequence it is said he will throw his influence against the government in the approaching elections.

NICOLA LAKE.

Spring weather—ranchers—seriously thinking of commencing spring ploughing and seeding. Mr. John Clapperton has commenced and has put in some wheat.

The roads from Spence's Bridge are in bad shape. No freight running. The stage had to be "held on" last trip. Mr. Tom Hunter has taken a trip to Granite creek. It is understood that the government intends putting in a bridge in place of the one swept away by last year's floods, and Mr. Hunter has gone in to see it.

If seems as if something is "going to go" in Granite creek this spring, judg-

ing by reports. Mr. Blair is said to be hopeful, not to say sanguine; and Murphy's good luck helps that way. But we don't hatch our eggs till they are laid (gold or any kind), and we will wait and see.

SALMON ARM.

The snow has nearly all disappeared here. Now the thermometer stands 40 to 50 above.

Perhaps the most dastardly event that has occurred in this valley since it has been settled occurred this month. It seems that about three weeks ago Mr. R. Davis lost his dog, Dinah. Last week the water in his well became unbearable; neither his stock or family could drink it. Upon emptying his well he found his dog, which had been killed and thrown into it by some person. His daughter Lillie now lies at his house very sick. It was thought at one time that she would not live, but by faithful attendance by kind neighbors the girl is now better and on a slow road to recovery. The perpetrators of this dastardly deed left no trace of their presence, but no doubt if found will be sorry they ever came to the valley. The whole valley wishes that the child may speedily recover.

VERNON.

The muddle of civic affairs in Vernon has been referred to the attorney-general. A petition in the meantime has been sent to the lieutenant-governor, asking that he direct a new election to be held. Three aldermen have resigned, and the fourth, who probably will, is absent in the east. There is therefore not a quorum left to transact business, and even to pass the necessary by-law to hold the required election.

LILLOOET.

Lillooet, Feb. 26.—We are having fine spring weather here, 65 degrees in the shade to-day. The mining season is just opening up. The banks of the Fraser are lined with Indians and Chinamen, all busy working. The mining prospects are very good this year. If the present fine weather continues farmers will commence work next week.

BRILLIANT METEORIC DISPLAY.

Meteors and Fireballs Light Up the Heavens.

Reno, Nev., March 2.—The largest meteorite ever seen in this section passed from the northern heavens to the south-west this morning at 5.48. It was intensely bright and the light lit up the heavens and a ball of fire accompanied it with a hissing sound like an electric current. About two minutes after it disappeared an explosion like an immense blast was heard, shaking the buildings as would an earthquake. Reports from other stations say the meteors were seen as far south as Carson.

THE EMPIRE STATE.

Mr. Croker Says There is a Great Scramble for Pap.

New York, March 2.—It is probable that ex-Senator Platt will be forced to take a vacation from all business and other cares for some days. Since his visit to Albany more than a week ago he has suffered from the effects of the sewage of Troy and Cohoes, which is served as drinking water to the people of that city. He was not able to go down town to his office yesterday. His doctors have been urging him for three or four days past to take a southern trip. He was unwilling to do so, but his condition while not alarming is such that his family has prevailed on him to accept the advice of his physicians. He has done a large amount of work during the year, and that coupled with the foul water of Albany, has left him in a poor physical condition.

Last evening the city teemed with politicians. There are enough of them if judiciously distributed to make half a dozen conferences. Among those in town are Senator O'Connor, Speaker Fish, Charles W. Hackett, chairman of the state committee, Senator Leonard, Congressman Wilbur, State Committeeman Barnes and practically all the members of the state senate.

Richard Croker returned to this city yesterday from Rock Ledge, Fla., where he has been passing the winter. He said to a reporter that he expected to leave for Europe about the last of the month to remain there during the racing season and to return in September. In speaking of the Republican "reform" government, Mr. Croker stated "Spoils, spoils, all spoils, just what was shouted against Tammany hall. New York never saw before such scrambling for public pap as is witnessed at present." The streets of the city are in a horrible condition; the worst I have ever seen. Were a Tammany commissioner in charge he would be on his way to Sing Sing.

THE POLITICAL POT.

Further Nominations in the Eastern Provinces.

Dutton, Ont., March 2.—The West Elgin Conservatives met yesterday but could not agree as to the advisability of putting a candidate in the field and disbanded without any plans for the future. As this is a Grit hive, they will likely let the Liberal and Paton fight it out.

Halifax, March 2.—H. J. Logan, a young barrister of Amherst, accepted the nomination of the Liberal convention to contest Cumberland against Secretary of State Dickey.

EX-PRESIDENT PERIER.

He Refuses to Explain Thereby Causing Much Comment.

Paris, March 4.—In writing his excuse for not attending the annual banquet given in Paris Saturday evening by the natives of the Anbe, ex-President Casimir-Perier said: "It would have been difficult for me to remain silent, yet I could hardly have spoken without exciting controversy. It seems that for months past I have furnished the press with so many objects of attack that I can now make it wait awhile. Between the inconveniences caused my own interests by silence and the inconvenience which might be caused public affairs by my explanations at the present moment I do not hesitate." The ex-president's remarks have excited much comment, as they are assumed to refer to future revelations.

SEALING CLAIMS.

House Refuses to Further Consider the Question To-day.

Washington, March 4.—An attempt was made to have the house bill preventing the destruction of the seal herd passed and the resolution of Morgan for an inquiry to the claim of Great Britain arising out of the fur seal controversy, but objection was made to the consideration of both measures. Morgan in speaking in advocacy of the passage of his resolution declared that not more than \$79,000 was due to Great Britain.

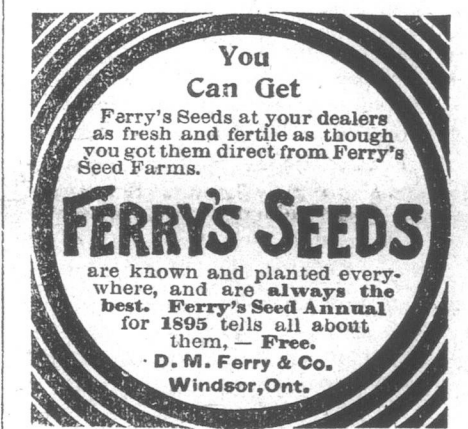
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active and applicable to species of fish, and that of congress and the action of the whole act, furnished and the decision affirmed."

PRAIRIE PROVINCE.

He Has no Intention of Resigning as a Tory.

March 1.—The Roman Catholic last night passed a resolution to reiterate the fact that in the question of having a school, and that there is no the same than that while supporting the schools, we have at the obtained our own schools of our children."

Manitoba, a fire started store early this morning and contents, also dwelling adjoining, were total loss is \$6,100; in-

Donald says he has no interest in Winnipeg as a candidate at the approach-

away passed a very rest- ing it is improbable that he sent in the legislature

is left to-day for New the wedding of the Duc Miss Anna Gould. He

from has never been in a Casteline who visited about ago was a cousin Others think differently,

of Toronto, has been of Manitoba. He says: "Mr. Davis by Sir Mackenzie Bo- dent-general of the ed police force, that further reductions in reducing has ceased"

ature decided yesterday intence of Government year.

SEA AWARD.

Bill Contains no Item arge of the Obligation.

March 1.—The question sea indemnity fund came on two occasions to resolution offered by Mr. (at, Alabama) to refer be committee on foreign instructions to inquire there were any liabilities amount, on the part of this question was mostly discussed and an objection from Mr. (at, Indiana). The sec- came up was in the endment offered by Mr. deficiency bill, appropri- the expenses of arti- indemnity. That was Mr. Sherman, Republi- an unwise proposition sult in a much larger ment, and as weaken- of international arbitra- a substitute for it to which was agreed upon ry of state. Mr. Mor- Ala., who had been a original Behring Sea he declared that such a be discernable to the and to the people of the Mr. Cockrell, in order discussion, withdrew the Mr. Sherman's substi- and so the deficiency from on the subject of indemnity.

became of that fasting ave. —She's doing six months her board bill.—White

dickly cures

Burns, Bruises, Bunions.

between the Tact.

Piles, Old Sores, Ulcers, Sore, Pimples, Pusules, Eruptions, Tendons, Lamedness and soreness.

for B. C.