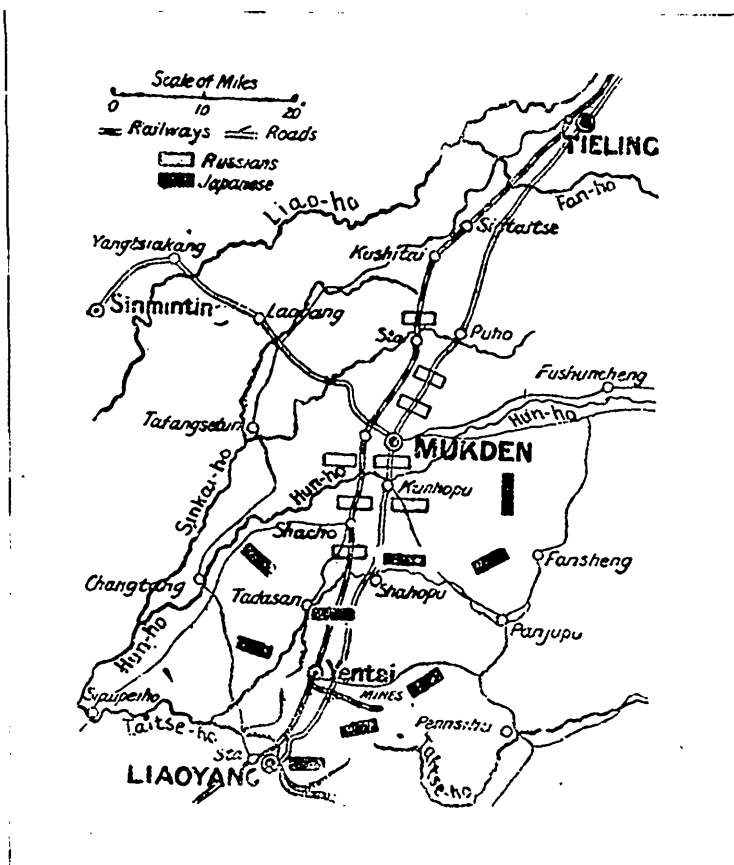


Current Topics and Events.



MAP SHOWING RETREAT OF RUSSIANS AND ADVANCE OF JAPANESE.

The great war game, like some gigantic game of chess, continues to be played with remorseless skill, as though the pawns were mere pieces of red and white ivory instead of masses of living, sentient, suffering humanity. Goldwin Smith remarks upon the injury to the ideals of morality and humanity through the whole civilized world gazing with fevered interest upon this slaughter of mankind. Herr Bloch argued that war was becoming so disastrous, so destructive of both men and money, that it must inevitably break down or burn out like a fire for lack of fuel. But the Czar, his three hundred thousand troops in the Far East forced back and back,

levies another three hundred thousand to reinforce their ranks or take their places. The Japanese "elder statesmen" coolly calculate that half a million young men come of age every year, so that there is food for powder for a long time to come.

It is noteworthy that at the same time two great gatherings meet in the United States to declare war against war—the great peace conference in Boston and gathering of interparliamentary representatives of many lands and many tongues at the St. Louis Fair. The latter body has appealed to President Roosevelt to call a new