

WORLD AFFAIRS

AND still Japan keeps winning. The war has now lasted more than a year, and during that year what seemed impossible has come to pass—little Japan has worsted big Russia, not once but many times, and is still at it. The first stage of the game was the practical destruction of the Russian navy. On land, the Japanese forces fought their way into Manchuria, and in a series of brilliant engagements pushed back their opponents from one post to another. In the Manchurian campaign the Russian losses for the year were 72,700 men, and the Japanese 54,000.

Then came the victory at Port Arthur. A desperate siege of eleven months meant an additional loss for the Japs of 50,000 men, but in the end they won. Next was the Battle of Hun River, in January, one of the most important in the war, and another defeat for the Russians. But the most brilliant of all the engagements, showing to best advantage the clever tactics and strategy of the little Jap fighters, was the recent Battle of Mukden, in which, after being gradually hemmed in, General Kuropatkin was compelled to yield and, with a loss of 200,000 men, to give up Mukden to the Japanese general, Oyama.

Victorious as they are, the Japanese are willing to make peace. The terms on which they offer to do so include the payment by Russia of a large indemnity, but their insistence upon this is regarded by Russia as a sign that their finances are nearly exhausted, and that a few months more of fighting will compel them to "come down." But Japan has already proved that she is of a temper and spirit not given to coming down.

A Struggle for Freedom

IT was inevitable that internal troubles should come in Russia. The sores were there, and sooner or later they must have broken out; so the recent revolution caused no wonder in the rest of the world. The outbreak is virtually a struggle for

freedom, though it began under the guise of a labor strike. In a short time the arm of the law had succeeded in quelling the disturbances, and the Czar promised attention to the demands of the people. But such promises have been made before and not a



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great deal of dependence is to be placed in them. So long as the Government, despotic as it is, has the support of the army, the people can, however, do little but to demand and wait.

Yet the rights of liberty must eventually triumph in Russia. The start has been made, and it is the more likely to go on to final success because it has been so long in beginning. The demands of the revolutionists, or more properly speaking, the reform leaders, are summarized as follows:

First.—The immediate cessation of the war.

Second.—The summoning of a constituent assembly of representatives of the people, elected by universal and equal franchise and direct secret ballot.

Third.—The removal of class and race privileges and restrictions.