

PORT ARTHUR TAKEN.

China's Great Stronghold in the Hands of the Japanese—Fearful Fighting.

On to Peking!—The Japanese Not Disposed to Spare the Capital.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—A dispatch from Chefoo says: The backbone of Chinese resistance has given way and the mountain passes that lie between the great naval station and Peking now shelter the scattered remnants of the emperor's forces. Word has just reached here that Port Arthur fell after a battle that lasted 157 hours.

The reports of the fighting are very meagre, but it is believed that both sides suffered heavily. China's loss, it is said, exceeds that of Japan, for, undisciplined as the Emperor's soldiers were, they fought with the desperation of desperadoes. The attack on Port Arthur by Japan's second army under General Oya was so carefully planned that when the fire was opened the Japanese troops assailed the city at every point.

The fighting was terrible, but was only ended when Chinese, unable to stand the struggle any longer, withdrew and retreated to the mountain passes near by, leaving the city at the mercy of the foe. The fall of Port Arthur clears the way to Peking for Japan. Whether or not that city will suffer a like fate must depend upon what action China will take in a very few days. Already China has asked for peace on the terms of paying 250,000,000 taels, or \$175,000,000, for it.

It is not believed, however, that China will continue the war any longer. Port Arthur is regarded by all European military and naval critics as the key to one of China's great defenses, and without which she will be at the mercy of the Japanese.

The advance movement has been most cautious, as the ground for forty miles around Port Arthur has been found fairly all right with respect to mines connected with electric wires to Port Arthur. Three days ago the Japanese were within a day's march of the fortress, but it was necessary to send ahead a small scouting party to pick a route away from the mines and electric wires. The regular roads cannot be used for the artillery, as it would have been blown up, and accordingly the big guns had to be moved in circuitous routes through woods and morasses. The fortress was one of the strongest of modern times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—A Japanese dispatch states that China has intimated through U. S. Minister Dabney its willingness to pay an indemnity of 100,000,000 taels, and, in addition, all the war expenses incurred by Japan. The war expenses reach 150,000,000 taels, but the offer of China would be 250,000,000 taels. A tael is a Chinese silver coin worth about 75 cents at the present exchange.

It is believed that arrangements between the two nations could be effected on terms of providing for a smaller indemnity. It is expected that Minister Dabney will transmit the offer by telegraph to Peking and Shanghai and thence by cable to Yokohama.

The Chinese have lost the most powerful vessel of their navy, the great battleship Cen Yuen, which stood the brunt of the fighting at Yalu. A cable dispatch received at the navy department to-day states that the Chen Yuen in leaving Weihaiwei harbor on the 15th instant accidentally struck a torpedo. She was built in Europe in 1893, and was 7,452 tons displacement. It would seem that the ship fell a victim to one of the torpedoes planted by the Chinese themselves to guard the entrance of Weihaiwei, which was the last of the great naval strongholds of the empire save Port Arthur.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Pope's Memoir of Sir John Macdonald Describes Forty Years of Canadian Politics.

Contracts Signed for the Public Buildings at Victoria—New B. C. Queen's Counsel.

THE GAROTTE.

BARCELONA, Nov. 21.—Salvador Franchi, the chief conspirator in the bomb throwing plot which resulted in the death of thirty persons and the wounding of eighty others in the Lyceum theatre this city a little more than a year ago, was executed this morning.

TEHUANTEPEC CANAL.

NEW YORK, Nov. 21.—The completion of the Tehuantepec railroad is announced. It will connect the Pacific and Atlantic oceans by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, a distance of 130 miles.

CANADIAN CANALS.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Nov. 21.—An afternoon paper says that for the last three months leading American vessel owners for the great lakes have been in consultation with the Canadian ministry devising a scheme under which the ships of this country could make free use of the Canadian ship canals.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND STORMS.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Investigated the case, but in vain, as the man had too much start.

THE NAMAIMO POLICE SQUAD—Miners Indicted for Carelessness—The Okanagan District.

THE COUNCIL CHIEF—The case of the Council Chief McKinnon came on to-day. The former evidence was given over at length.

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