The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVI., NO. 44. VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1904. FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Togo Makes His Report

Official Recital of Latest Attack By Navy on Port-Arthur.

Exceeded All Former Attempts In Perseverance and Desperate Courage.

Seas Ran Mountains High and Squadron Was Signalled to Return.

Tokio, May 7.—Vice-Admiral Togo's official recital of the latest engagement off Port Arthur, which was received here today, shows that the Japanese have blocked the entrance to the harbor. On Tuesday morning, after the blockading flotilla had been scattered by a gale and the commander of the flotilla had signalled in vain that the attempt was abandoned pending the moderation of the storm, the crews of the separated ships, in no way daunted by the weather which isolated them from their companions, forced their way in the face of the Russian fire, which was more deadly than ever before as a result of the improved Russian defences, over the field of mines. Many of these exploded, yet five out of the eight Japanese blockading ships were jammed into the inner channel and prevented egress from the harbor to all craft excepting small boats.

This attack exceeded all its predecessors in desperation and the courage displayed by the volunteer crews is equal to that shown in any event in the war history of the world. Although Vice-Admiral Togo again avoided damage to a single one of his vessels, the attack proved too expensive in lives. The blockading flotilla consisted of eight stone-laden merchantmen. They were escorted by the gunboat Asayi, Commander Agino; the Oshima, the second torpedo boat destroyer flotilla under the command of Commander Chida, the third torpedo boat destroyer flotilla, Command Taibiki; the fourth flotilla, Commander Nagai; the fifth flotilla, Commander Mano; the ninth torpedo boat flotilla, Commander Yashima; the tenth torpedo boat flotilla, Commander Otani, and the fourteenth torpedo boat flotilla, Commander Sakurai. The blockading vessels and their escort left the main squadron for Port Arthur on Monday evening. They encountered a southeasterly gale, and by 11 o'clock at night the seas were mountainous and it was found impossible to keep the steamers together. Commander Hayashi, who was in command of the expedition, observed the impossibility of keeping the flotilla intact and signalled it to abandon the attack. These signals were repeated until 2 o'clock in the morning, but they failed to reach the vessels of the expedition, which were swept apart by the tempestuous seas, and proceeded separately for the mouth of the harbor. Upon arriving [illegible] Maru, one of the merchantmen, saw that the enemy was firing upon the fourteenth torpedo boat flotilla. The men on board the Mikawa Maru thought the other steamers had reached the harbor mouth, and they steamed boldly in. She was followed closely by another of the merchantmen, believed to be the Sakura Maru. The Russians had fires burning at the mouth of the harbor and they used also many powerful searchlights on the invading Japanese vessels. They poured in an incessant fire into the channel. Lieut. Sosa, who was in command of the Mikawa Maru, unhesitatingly forced his ship into the channel, rammed his way through the booms and reached the centre of the inner entrance. He anchored his vessel and then blew her up. She sank immediately. Another steamer supposed to be the Sakura Maru, then came to anchor near a projecting rock at the mouth of the harbor and sank. Following the Sakura Maru came the Tomi Maru, the Yedo Maru, the Otharu Maru, the Sagi Mi Maru, the Aikoku Maru and the Asagawo Maru. The six steamers advanced to the mouth of the harbor. The Russian fire now became highly effective, while a number of sunken mines, which were struck by the steamers, began to explode. These explosions caused heavy casualties among the Japanese on board the blockading vessels. The Tomi Maru collided with a boom. This turned her stem to the eastward, and she sank athwart the passage, blocking nearly one-half of the entrance to the harbor. When the Yedo Maru reached the mouth of the passage and was lowering her anchor, her captain, Commander Takayangi, was shot through the stomach and killed. Sub-Lieut. Nagata succeeded to the command. He anchored the Yedo Maru and sunk her. The two other stone-laden steamers, believed to be the Totoru Maru and the Sagmi Maru, then followed to the outer harbor and sank. The Aiko Maru then struck a mine five cable lengths from the mouth of the passage, which exploded and caused her to sink. The lieutenant of this vessel, Uchida, Chief Engineer Aoki and eight men are missing. A steamer, thought to be the Asagawo Maru, which appeared to have had her rudder broken, blew herself up at the foot of Golden Hill and sank there. Vice-Admiral Togo in his report says: "This undertaking, when compared to the last two, resulted in greater casualties to our side. Owing to the inclement weather and the increased preparations for defence completed by the enemy, we could save none of the officers or the crews of the Otaru Maru, the Sagmi Maru, the Sakura Maru or the Asagawo Maru. It is to be regretted that nothing particular could be learned concerning the brave discharge of their duties, but the memory of their exemplary conduct will remain long in the imperial army. The destroyer and torpedo boat flotilla, besides resisting the enemy bravely, fought against wind and waves. The torpedo boat flotilla approached close to the mouth of the harbor and rescued more than half the men. Torpedo boat No. 67 had a steam pipe broken by a shell and was disabled, but a consort, torpedo boat No. 70, went to her assistance and towed her away. Three of the crew of No. 67 were wounded." The destroyer Aotaka had her larboard engine damaged by a shell and one sailor on board of her was killed. One sailor on board the Hayabua was killed by a shell. The third detachment, Rear-Admiral Dewa commanding, reached Port Arthur at 6 o'clock Tuesday morning.

THE BABY'S TROUBLES.

The greatest suffering of childhood is caused by eczema, scald head, chafing or other forms of skin irritation or eruption. Because of its extraordinary soothing, healing power Dr. Chase's Ointment is of inestimable value in the home where there are small children. No mother who has learned the scores of ways in which Dr. Chase's Ointment can be used would think of being without it in the house.

HIGHWAY TERRORS.

Norfolk, Va., May 7.—Two highwaymen are terrorizing the Ecoff to-night. In the space of [illegible] an hour they attacked three men killing one.

THOUSANDS LOCKED OUT.

Vienna, May 7.—The Builders' Association today locked out 45,000 bricklayers, stonemasons and laborers. This step was taken for the purpose of defeating strikes on certain buildings, the completion of which is urgently necessary.

A DELAYED DECISION.

St. Louis, May 7.—A cablegram was received from St. Petersburg today by the director of the exhibits staff of the World's Fair stating that Russia will make an elaborate exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase exposition.

MRS. POWELL GUILTY.

Dover, May 7.—Mrs. Mary Powell was tonight convicted of the murder of Estella Albin, the jury fixing the punishment at imprisonment for life. The trial was in progress one week and the jury deliberated two hours. Sentence will be pronounced on Monday.

HEAVY ORE SHIPMENTS.

Phoenix, May 7.—The Granby mines have shipped nearly 200,000 tons of ore this year. As the company's smelter handles some custom ore the tonnage of the reduction works is somewhat larger than that of the mines. Following are the Boundary ore shipments for the week: Granby mines, to Granby smelter, 10,200 tons; Mother Lode, to Greenwood smelter, 2,500 tons; Emma, to Granby and Greenwood smelter, 390 tons; Oro Denoro, to Granby smelter, 30 tons; total for the week, 13,240; total for the year to date, 286,105 tons. This week the Granby smelter treated 12,501 tons of ore, making a total for this year of 221,851 tons.

Resistance Not Likely Prolonged

Believed Russians Have no Idea of Long Defences of Port Arthur.

Garrison Already Depleted Previous to Abandonment By Alexieff.

London, May 7.—Quiet confidence continues to prevail here that the Japanese in their own good time will carry out all their carefully arranged plans of campaign on the Liaotung peninsula, which is now generally regarded as being practically in Japanese hands. In diplomatic quarters no events are expected, either in the shape of a Chinese breach of neutrality or of the mediation of some power which would interfere with the normal course of the war. Foreign Secretary Lansdowne has received explicit information which leads him to the belief that there is no danger of the Chinese failing to maintain strict neutrality. The Chinese minister called at the foreign office here this week and so assured Lord Lansdowne. Any attempt at mediation, according to the general opinion in official and diplomatic circles, must, for the present at any rate, be postponed.

At the Japanese legation it is thought that Russia does not intend to make a very determined resistance at Port Arthur. In support of this idea it is pointed out that Russia already has largely depleted her garrison at Port Arthur, and that Viceroy Alexieff's departure from there hardly seems a step that would be adopted by a commander who desired to risk everything to keep up the morale of his troops and enable them to withstand a prolonged siege. The Japanese officials here do not count so much on the Japanese commander succeeding in starving out Port Arthur as on the inevitable demoralization of which they believe will spread among the already dispirited sailors and soldiers at Port Arthur, and which must necessarily be threatened by a constant sea bombardment, menaced by the land forces and complete isolation.

As regards the land fighting in Manchuria and the disposition of the other mysterious Japanese army, Baron Hayashi said today: "You may be pretty sure that the Japanese will not undertake any engagement in the near future unless our forces outnumber those available by the Russian commander, and I think you will find the superiority of numbers will generally, for the present at any rate, be on our side."

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

Washington, May 6.—United States Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has issued an order prohibiting the importation of hay and straw from Continental Europe on account of danger of the introduction of foot and mouth diseases.

ALEXIEFF'S RECALL.

Report That Emperor's Cousin Will Replace Viceroy.

Paris, May 8.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Journal says he is assured that Viceroy Alexieff will be recalled at the instance of Vice Admiral Skrydloff and General Kuropatkin and that the Emperor's cousin, Grand Duke Nicolasaievitch will replace him.

SMITH STILL AT LARGE.

Boise, Idaho, May 7.—Charles Smith, the fugitive convict who escaped from the guards at the penitentiary yesterday, has not been captured. Last night Guard Orlando Robbins ran across a man on the road some miles above town. The fellow stopped him, holding what looked like a shotgun. Robbins sprang from his horse in an effort to capture the man, but the man darted into the brush. It is supposed this was Smith.

YACHT INGOMAR ARRIVES.

Southampton, May 6.—The American schooner-yacht Ingomar, Captain Barr, from Bristol, R. I., April 20, arrived here today. She reports meeting with strong winds and heavy seas, but sustained no damage.

JAPANESE TREASURY NOTES.

New York, May 6.—Kuhn, Loeb & Co. announce that the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Paris Bank, Limited, of London, have purchased from the imperial Japanese government $10,000,000 seven year 6 per cent. treasury notes, redeemable after three years at the option of the government, and secured by an exclusive first lien on the customs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co. have agreed to join, and a small issue will be made shortly in London and New York. It is understood from outside sources that Kuhn, Loeb & Co. take half of the notes and will form a syndicate which will purchase them.

KUROPATKIN'S HEADQUARTERS

THE RAILWAY STATION JUST OUTSIDE MUKDEN—GENERAL KUROPATKIN'S HEADQUARTERS.

Amendments To Scheme

Mr. Borden Asks For Some Changes In Grand Trunk Pacific Scheme.

Government Consider the Propositions and Will Answer on Wednesday.

Council of Seven to Assist in Administering the Militia.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, May 7.—Mr. Borden formally notified the government that it was the intention of the opposition to move several important amendments to the transcontinental railway bill. One provides that the Grand Trunk and G. T. P. must enter into a solemn covenant to build up an all-Canadian route. Another amendment stipulates that for every single share of G. T. P. allotted to the Grand Trunk there shall be three such shares handed over to the Dominion government in part consideration of the aid granted from the G. T. P. The third stipulates that the government at all times shall have the right to inspect the books of the Grand Trunk or G. T. P. Another amendment provides that if the government considers the proper apportionment of the earnings between the Eastern and Western sections has not been made, then arbitrators may be appointed to determine the matter. The cabinet sat all day considering these amendments. The decision will be announced Wednesday.

Judge Britton is gazetted as sole arbitrator to wind up the hydraulic inquiry.

The statement of revenue and expenditure for the Dominion for the ten months ending with April shows the revenue to be $56,728,716, compared with $52,616,841 for the same time last year, an increase of $4,096,875. The expenditure for the same period was $35,802,813, an increase of $877,000.

P. M. Armendariz and Santiego Mendez, of Mexico, are here seeing Sir Wm. Mulock in regard to steamship communication, trade matters and postal arrangements between the both countries. They say that Mexico is anxious for closer trade relations with Canada.

Senator Dever died at St. Luke's hospital today. His death leaves four vacancies in the senate, two in Nova Scotia, one in British Columbia and one in New Brunswick.

The minister of militia will amend his militia bill so that a council of seven will have control of the militia. This council will comprise four officers of the headquarters' staff and three civilians, the minister of militia, the deputy and the accountant of the department.

CONFERENCE TERMINATES.

Cleveland, May 7.—The conference between the lake carriers and master pilots association was abruptly terminated late this afternoon and the announcement that no agreement had been reached and that a settlement was far away apparently as at any time since the opening of negotiations. The conference adjourned without any agreement for another meeting. This means that commerce on the lakes will continue to be practically tied up for an indefinite period. It is said that fully 70 per cent of all the vessel owners on Great Lakes are represented in the lake carriers' Association.

GENERAL KODAMA MOVES ON LIAOYANG

Result of Battle May Decide the Probable Length of War.

Paris, May 8.—General Kodama, according to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris, is reported to be marching upon Liaoyang, where General Kuropatkin will give him battle. The result of the fight, it is asserted, will decide the length of the war. In the event of the Russians being beaten, the war, the correspondents says, will be interminable, as Russia will send her last man and spend her last kopeck in order to regain her prestige.

KILLS HIMSELF IN STREET CAR.

St. Louis, May 7.—In the presence of a score of men and women, Paul Moore, a traveling salesman of Cleveland, O., today shot and killed himself in a street car at the intersection of two of the busiest thoroughfares in the business section. He was despondent.

SENATOR SMOOT IS CONFIDENT.

Salt Lake, Utah, May 7.—Senator Reed Smoot returned from Washington today and went at once to his home in Provo. In an interview Senator Smoot expressed entire confidence that he would be allowed to retain his seat in the senate. "I haven't the least doubt in the world that I will be seated," he said.

VISITS TORPEDO FACTORIES.

Berlin, May 7.—Lieut.-Commander Potts, United States naval attache, has returned from a two months' trip, visiting navy yards and torpedo manufacturers in Austria and Italy, to whose courts he was also accredited. At Fiume, where Whitehead torpedoes are manufactured, he learned that no orders for Russians or Japanese are on hand, all having been filled prior to the outbreak of war.

WILL USE CARRIER PIGEONS.

St. Petersburg, May 7, 1:10 p.m.—The Russian admiralty expects to be able to continue communications with Port Arthur in spite of the coming of the Japanese. Instruments used in wireless telegraphy have been erected at the fortress to communicate with stations at the north of the peninsula.

Russians Again Routed.

Tokio, May 8.—(Noon.)—The Japanese captured Fengwangcheng the day before yesterday (Friday). It was the second line of the Russian defence and a stiff fight was anticipated. General Kuroki pressed forward and attacked before the Russians had recovered from the demoralization and confusion into which they had been thrown by their previous defeat on the Yalu river.

Trained carrier pigeons were also sent to Port Arthur some time ago, and through one means or another the Russian authorities hope to retain communication. The admiralty is in possession of specific information to the effect that the harbor of Port Arthur is open.

CHINESE BRIGANDS ACTIVE.

St. Petersburg, May 7.—A despatch has been received by the Red Cross Society here stating that Chinese brigands have attacked and maltreated Russians who were wounded in the fight in Kiuliencheng.

General Pflug Reports Landing

Chief of Military Staff at Port Arthur Relates Recent Events.

Complains That the Japanese Fired on a Red Cross Train.

St. Petersburg, May 8.—The ministry of war has received the following telegram from Major-General Pflug, chief of the military staff:

"According to the information I have received, seven of the enemy's transports, and afterwards about forty, appeared opposite Pitsewo on the evening of May 4th. On the morning of May 5th the Japanese began to land at Pitsewo and on the coast near Cape Terminal, about fifteen miles southwest of Pitsewo, under cover of an artillery fire. At this moment about sixty transports were observed bearing down upon the coast and our posts retired from the shore.

"All papers in the post office at Pitsewo were removed and the Russian inhabitants abandoned the town. According to Chinese report by the evening of May 5th about 10,000 of the enemy's troops had landed and taken up quarters in the Chinese villages near the point of debarkation.

"The enemy sent two columns of about one regiment each, one in a westerly direction and the other to the southward.

"On May 6th a passenger train from Port Arthur was fired upon a mile and a quarter outside of Polandien, about forty miles north of Port Arthur, by a number of Japanese infantrymen occupying the heights east of the railroad. The train carried many passengers, 200 sick occupying an ambulance carriage flying the Red Cross flag. Two of the sick were wounded. The train succeeded in reaching Polandien. Tranquillity prevails in the maritime province and in Yinkow."

WARSHIPS CROSS ATLANTIC.

Representative Fleet Leaves for Cruise Into Mediterranean.

Washington, May 6.—A representative fleet of United States warships left Pensacola today for a cruise across the Atlantic and into the Mediterranean. It includes four battleships of the North American fleet and the newly organized European squadron. The joint squadrons are under the command of Rear-Admiral Barker, commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic fleet. The European squadron is commanded by Rear-Admiral Jewell. The fleet is composed of the battleships Kearsarge, Iowa, Alabama and Maine, and the cruisers Olympia, Cleveland and Baltimore. The itinerary of the cruise is left to the discretion of Admiral Barker.

Second Army Corps

Seoul, May 7, 7:30 p.m.—A telegram received from Antung declares that the second Japanese army corps, besides having disembarked on the Liaotung peninsula, has effected a landing at Takushan, on the Manchurian coast, about 40 miles west of the mouth of the Yalu.

HOIST WITH OWN PETARD.

Ogdensburg, May 6.—In preparing to fish by exploding unslacked lime in a glass bottle in the St. Lawrence river, H. A. Wilson, of Brockville, Ont., today lost the sight of both eyes. After putting water in the bottle, he placed lime in it, and while he was fitting the cork it exploded in his hands.

THE JOY OF LIVING.

It is only the healthy who find a real joy in life. Weak, nervous, languid and discouraged people find new hope and energy in the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. With new rich blood coursing through the veins and the thrill of new nerve force sent tingling along the nerve fibres, the joy of living returns and disease and weakness disappear.

Working For Senatorship

Dr. Sinclair of Rossland Urges His Claims in Preference to Bostock.

Another Spat in the Agricultural Committee By Mr Sproule Yesterday.

Government Purchase a Branch Line to Add to the Intercolonial.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, May 6.—Dr. Sinclair, Rossland, is here pushing his claim to the vacant British Columbia senatorship. The fight is now between Hewitt Bostock and Dr. Sinclair, with the chances in favor of Mr. Bostock.

There was another lively racket in the agricultural committee today. Mr. Sproule called Mr. Oliver a d——d cowboy.

Mr. Robert Henderson, the alleged discoverer of Klondike, is here pressing his claims to compensation as the discoverer.

The government is taking authority to wipe out pilotage boards by order in council whenever it thinks fit. Power is also taken for the investigation officer to suspend pilots in the event of casualty due to drunkenness or other misconduct.

The government has decided to purchase the Canada Eastern railway as a branch of the Intercolonial. It extends from Chatham to Fredericton, a distance of 136 miles, the price being $800,000.

The bill to incorporate the Vancouver Island Company is read a first time.

Good progress was made in supply today.

Premier Laurier announced that the Mounted Police force will be increased by another hundred men.

KOREANS CELEBRATE.

Seoul, May 7.—The sum of 300,000 yen has been appropriated for the repairing of the old East Palace. The Emperor has subscribed 1,000 yen to the fund for the celebration of the Japanese victory on the Yalu.

STEAMSHIP WRECKED.

Lisbon, May 7.—The German mail steamer Kurfurst, from Hamburg for Hamburg, which went ashore four miles northward of Sagres, in the extreme southwestern part of Portgual, is a total wreck. Her passengers and crew are safe.

MEXICO'S CONSTITUTION.

City of Mexico, May 7.—The reform constitution, providing for a vice-president of the republic and providing that the incumbent of that office shall be chosen by popular vote, was promulgated today. Foreign Minister Ignacio Mariscal is looked upon as a probable candidate for the new office.

FAST IN ICE PACK.

St. John's, Nfld., May 7.—Two French fishing vessels have been driven ashore by ice floes on the west coast of Newfoundland, whither they were bound to secure bait. The crews were saved but the vessels were destroyed. Seven ocean steamers, bound into the Gulf of St. Lawrence for Montreal, are fast in the ice off Cape Ray. An immense ice pack block the route of the steamers.

WEEK'S WORK AT ROSSLAND CAMP

Ten Day's Mill Run on I X L Mine Gave Good Returns.

Rossland, B. C., May 7.—Bullion to the value of seven hundred dollars was cleaned up this week at the I. X. L. mine during the first ten days of the mill's run. The mill did not run continuously for this period owing to stoppages for repairs incidental to starting machinery, and the next clean-up is expected to be exceedingly larger.

Interest naturally centers about Le Roi mine, but there was no special development during the week. The mine is shipping on a small scale, but high-grade ore only is going forward. On the 1,350 level stoping has been started on the fine ore body opened up there, and a winze commenced. It is intimated, unofficially, that the continuance of good showing may lead to the big five compartment shaft being carried down a couple of hundred feet at a comparatively early date.

The Jumbo mine starts shipping again on the 10th inst., with the present ore bin capacities doubled.

Paul Scoulddey, manager of Le Roi No. 2 mine for the past eighteen months, left this morning for London. He will take the management of the mines controlled by the same people in Mexico or Australia. Ernest Levi, assistant manager, takes charge of all the properties.

Frank G. Stephens, a rising young mining man, who has been superintendent of Le Roi No. 2 mine for some time, has resigned to take the superintendency of large gold and silver mines at Guanajuato, Mexico. He is succeeded by D. R. Thomas. Ore shipments for the week ending tonight are: Le Roi, 1,568; Centre Star, 1,440; War Eagle, 810; Le Roi No. 2, 530; Le Roi No. 2 (milled), 350; Spitzee, 60; I. X. L. (milled), 100. Total, 4,858; year to date, 14,251 tons.

ANDREW McNALLY DEAD.

Chicago, May 7.—A despatch to the Chronicle from Los Angeles announces the death from heart disease at Pasadena of Andrew McNally, head of the publishing house of Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago.

BAKER'S STRIKE SETTLED.

Chicago, May 7.—The bakers' strike was settled tonight. The union yielded its demand that no work should be performed on the five leading holidays of the year, agreed to the usual amount of holiday work with amount of pay for hours worked only, and not for a full day irrespective of the amount of work performed. When the concession was made by the men five of the large bakeries in which the men struck signed the scale.

MERGER LITIGATION.

Federal Judge Says He Will Hear Suit May 21st.

Newark, N. J., May 7.—United States Judge Brandford, of Delaware, has notified counsel for E. H. Harriman and Winslow Pierce and of the Northern Securities and the Northern Pacific railway that on May 21st and 22nd he will hear arguments in the suit brought by Harriman and Pierce against the announced method for the distribution of the railroad stocks held by the Northern Securities Company.

KILLED PICKING UP PAIL.

Man Who Grasped Tin Bucket at a Fire Gets a Shock.

St. Paul, May 7.—John O'Brien, who followed the firemen into the basement of a saloon tonight at a fire, casually stopped to pick up a tin pail and dropped dead. Live wires had fallen in such a manner as to charge the pail. He was dead before assistance reached him, and although not seriously burned, the body showed evidence of having received a tremendous current. He is believed to be from Montana.

French View of Russia's Plight

Critical Situation Excites Feverish Interest in Paris as in St. Petersburg.

Diplomatic Negotiations to Restrain China From Joining Japan.

Paris, May 7.—The critical situation of Russia's land and sea forces excites feverish interest. Russian reverses causes almost as much depression here as at St. Petersburg. The organization called Les Femmes De France turned over to the Russian embassy today two complete field hospitals of 100 beds each. This organization is composed of women in large cities throughout France, including members of many noble families. Two more hospital outfits will be assembled shortly. The embassy sends these hospitals to the front under the direction of the Empress, who is personally superintending the efforts of French women in behalf of Russian wounded.

The official view is that Russia has suffered a serious blow, but not an irreparable blow. The foreign office had not received tonight official confirmation that Port Arthur was completely invested by land and sea, but a leading official said: "We accept the investment as an accomplished fact for unless if the harbor is not completely blocked, an investment exists for all practical purposes. The landings are considered merely preliminary to a supreme struggle which will soon occur near Port Arthur. Upon that will largely depend the outcome of the war."

Diplomatic negotiations during the week took a definite form to restrain China from joining Russia or otherwise breaking neutrality. The French minister at Pekin, and it is understood the ministers of all the powers joined in the representations. The results have been satisfactory, the imperial government giving a positive promise not to vary from a rigid observance of the neutrality. Officials are somewhat doubtful of Chinese promises, as they recall that after a formal notification of neutrality China permitted Black Flags to assail French interests. However, China's positive declaration, backed by the identical position of the powers is considered as reducing China's participation to a minimum.

The readiness with which the Russian loan was placed in Paris is a further evidence of French sympathy and a belief in the certainty of Russia's eventual success. Although the outside amount Russia desired was $160,000,000 a single group of French bankers were ready to underwrite a $200,000,000 loan. M. M. Hottinger and Noetzlin will arrive from St. Petersburg Monday, and complete arrangements to issue the loan. American bankers say that no portion is likely to be taken in New York. It is pointed out that the placing of Russian securities on the New York Stock Exchange has not proved the success that was expected. A leading official here said that not a single Russian bond has been bought in America since the listing took place. The same official gave the following interesting report of how the Russian army in the Far East is paid: "All payments are made in small Russian coins or Russian notes. These notes are readily taken by the Chinese, who are familiar with Russian financial issues. The notes are then exchanged by station masters of the Eastern Chinese railway or agencies of the Russo-Chinese bank at a rate of exchange fixed by the minister of finance according to the price of silver in London. The confidence of the Chinese public in Russian notes is very great. The Russo-Chinese bank keeps a silver fund to exchange notes in Manchuria. It being a significant fact that Russian notes are preferred to silver in Manchuria."

FIRE IN PITTSBURG.

Pittsburg, May 7.—The Gerbers' Carriage Company's factory was destroyed by fire today; loss $100,000.

BUSINESS DEPRESSION.

Boston, May 7.—Second Vice-President Edgar Vanetten, of the N. Y. C., received instructions today to discharge 400 of the 5,400 men in the employ of the Boston and Albany division of that system before the close of the month. This is in line with the reduction of the expenses being made on other Vanderbilt roads. Mr. Vanetten said: "Wages will not be reduced on the road, but it is the intention to lay off in the yards and on trains, boiler makers and clerks in every branch of the service where it is possible to go along with fewer employees." He added that, in common with other roads, his company was feeling the recent slump in business.

Fortress Is Impregnable

Russians Expected a Seige of Port Arthur and Are Satisfied.

Town Said to Be Amply Provisioned For a Long Blockade.

Garrison Is Now Said to Be But Ten Thousand Men All Told.

St. Petersburg, May 7.—Japanese troops swarming across the narrow neck of the Laio peninsula, the railroad and telegraph communications cut and the Russian Gibraltar isolated and left to its own resources. All this the Russians seem to accept with great stoicism.

These events have been anticipated since the outbreak of the war and the authorities in a sense, appear to be relieved, and now that the blow has fallen they assert that the fortress is impregnable and amply provisioned to stand a siege for a year and that it can hold out until the time comes to relieve it.

According to official information the landing of troops from sixty transports began simultaneously at Pitsewo and Cape Terminal on the morning of May 5th.

It is also reported that troops are being landed at Kinchow, but this is not credited, as the Russians are known to have fortifications there, and it is not believed that the Japanese had the daring to land immediately under an entrenched position from which the Russians could inflict severe injury on them. Complete details of the landing are lacking owing to the interruption of communications. No resistance was made by the few Cossacks observing the movement, retiring when the warships shelled the shore preparatory to disembarkation. Ten thousand men were put ashore Thursday and the disembarkation was proceeding yesterday at the time communication ceased. It is believed that there are over 20,000 now on hand preparing for a forward movement. Two Japanese regiments were hurried westward yesterday morning to cut the railroad and telegraph communications. One of these fired on a train conveying the wounded from Port Arthur.

While the landing was proceeding Thursday the enemy's ships consisting of the battleships Mikasa, Hatsuse, Shikishina, Yashima and Fuji and the cruisers Iwate, Idsumo, Adsuma and Asama made a demonstration off Port Arthur to prevent the possible egress of Russian torpedo boats.

A number of Japanese torpedo boats were also observed off Miado island in Pigeon bay. It was because he was convinced that Port Arthur was about to be cut off that Viceroy Alexieff, accompanied by his staff, and Grand Duke Boris left hastily. On Thursday several train loads of sick and wounded and other ineffectives were despatched northward.

It is reported here that the Japanese ships bombarded Port Arthur early on the morning of May 6th and succeeded at last in closing the entrance, but no official confirmation of the latter statement can be obtained.

The exact hour at which communication with the Russian stronghold ceased has not been established. The strength of the garrison at Port Arthur is not revealed by the authorities, who will only say that it is adequate for defensive purposes.

It is not believed that the force there exceeds 10,000 soldiers. A large force is not considered necessary, as was shown from the recent withdrawal of some of the troops, who were simply a drain on the resources of the garrison. The fleet must now take a secondary position, and cannot now reach Port Arthur, and will probably go to Vladivostock to join the cruiser squadron there.

Rear-Admiral Wittzoeff, who was left in charge of the fleet by Viceroy Alexieff, will direct operations at Port Arthur. Wittzoeff is a good officer, and it is believed he will render excellent service. Despite the greater number of Japanese, the general staff believes their formidable fortifications still leave the defensive superiority with the Russians, whose staying qualities, it is confident, will ensure their holding out as long as necessary. While the outer line of fortifications extends to Kinchow, unquestionably no determined effort will be made to hold them, nor is it expected that a desperate attempt to retain Dalny will be made. The main defence will be of Port Arthur, where, since the harbor has been occupied by the Russians, steady work has progressed to complete the system of defence, which is just as effective on the land as on the sea side.

General Stoessel will have supreme command at Port Arthur. He is described as a high-class commander. His recent proclamations show that he is embued with a determination to hold Port Arthur until the last man is killed.

Officers of the general staff say that the landing of the Japanese army on the peninsula and the investment of Port Arthur clarify the military situation.

Had Kuropatkin had his way before the war it is said he would have abandoned Port Arthur, withdrawing further to the north and waited until his army had become overwhelming in its strength, when he would have moved forward. But this was made impossible in consequence of the injuries sustained by the Port Arthur fleet and the impossibility of departure of the fleet from Vladivostock with a superior force outside that port.

Therefore the commander-in-chief is waiting at Liaoyang until the Japanese plans shall have developed sufficiently to show just what line it is proposed to pursue.

Caution forbade an attempt in force to prevent General Kuroki's passage of the Yalu as the troops landed at Pitsewo might have been diverted to take the Russians on the flank or rear.

Now that the uncertainty is partially dispelled, Kuropatkin from the interior lines is free to act. That he proposes to move energetically is shown by the fact that he has sent reinforcements to Fengwangcheng.

The indications are that he intends immediately to assume the aggressive and to strike General Kuroki's army before the latter can be reinforced through Korea. Should the Japanese land at Pitsewo and begin a northward movement, enough Russian troops are stated to be in the vicinity of New Chwang to hold the Japanese in check until conclusions have been tried with Kuroki. It is not anticipated, however, that the Japanese will march northward, but they will, it is believed, devote their energies to effect the fall of Port Arthur.