

RUSSIANS MAY SINK FLEET AND EVACUATE PT. ARTHUR

New York Hears That the Fortress Is To Be Left to Its Fate, Following Crimean Precedent.

JAPS START A FLANK MOVEMENT UPON RUSSIANS

China Reaffirms Her Intention to Remain Strictly Neutral—France Will Refuse to Permit Russian Warships to Use Her Coaling Stations.

New York, March 3.—Ominous rumors says a cable to the Herald from St. Petersburg have spread through business circles that Port Arthur will be abandoned to the enemy after sinking the ships, as was done in the Crimea war.

DRAGONEROFF IN TROUBLE.

London, March 3.—According to a correspondent of the Times, General Dragoneroff, former governor of Kieff, has been summoned to St. Petersburg. During the war deliberations he severely criticized Russian war policy, and insisted that both the fleet and army should evacuate Port Arthur in order to avoid greater disaster.

WHERE ARE THE JAPS?

Russians Think They Have Been Discouraged by Repulses.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—Since the disappearance of the Japanese fleet from before Port Arthur, the Russian authorities have been awaiting anxiously for the next move of the Japanese on sea. There is an inclination here to believe that the Japanese have been discouraged by the failure of their attacks and perhaps by losses they have not announced. Even from the "meager" information regarding the Russian dispositions in Northern Korea, that the plan for checking the Japanese land advance is perfected and that heavy reserves are being brought up to the Yalu River. Every energy of the authorities is now directed to prevent a blockade on the Siberian Railroad. Twenty new sidings, each of 2,200 feet, are being erected. Owing to the heavy move-

ment of rolling stock, carrying reinforcements, war munitions and commissary stores eastward, there is great danger that in bringing back the empty cars the whole line may be stopped. With the sidings now building, the authorities hope to be able to handle the trains and to send eleven trains in each direction daily.

Mail advances from Siberia say that the army reserve men from the rural districts seem to be much more anxious to go to the front than the townsmen. Many of the latter are presenting physicians' certificates of illness.

The Government bank balance March 1 showed a decrease of only \$4,000,000. The gold in hand amounted to \$456,000,000.

AFTER JAP EPICS.

Vladivostok, March 3.—The police have placarded the city with notices in Chinese and Russian calling on the Japanese to observe the neutrality of the city.

Harbin, Manchuria, March 3.—Prices have risen 100 per cent here on some articles, like condensed milk.

CHINA IS NEUTRAL.

Not Believed That She Is About to Join Japan.

Paris, March 3.—Credence is not given by the foreign office to the reports that China is about to join Japan. The Chinese government has declared its neutrality and that the Chinese troops sent north have instructions to enforce their neutrality. It is understood that China has disavowed any collusion between her troops and the Chinese outlaws, explaining that those who have joined the latter are deserters and that

in the undisputed state of the army it is impossible to prevent them from leaving.

It is authoritatively announced that France has not been approached to cede any islands to Russia for use as coaling stations by the latter when she sends her Baltic fleet to the far east. Should Russia make a request to this effect it will be denied, as such action would be regarded as a breach of neutrality. To show France's purpose to remain neutral, it is pointed out that Russia has a coal depot at Ville Franche, near Nice, but that Russian ships will not be allowed to use that station in time of peace.

HAVE NO FEAR OF FRANCE.

Jap Noblemen Think They Could Defeat French Navy.

New York, March 3.—Baron Suyematsu, son-in-law of the Marquis Ito, and formerly Japanese minister to the United States, arrived yesterday from Yokohama on his way to London. Baron Suyematsu spoke unofficially about the far eastern war, saying that Japan is not seeking territory, but that it is a matter of national existence for Japan. Regarding reports of interference by France he said that so far the attitude of that Government had been scrupulously correct, but if France saw fit to send a fleet to the Yellow Sea, the country having vanquished one fleet, would not mind fighting another. Baron Suyematsu denied that Japan had violated international law by beginning the war. The policy of Japan in Korea and Manchuria, he said, would be to secure the same trade privileges for all nations. The baron said that he was going to England for his health.

A FLANK MOVEMENT.

Vladivostok, March 3.—The detachment of 2,500 Japanese troops, with out artillery, which arrived at Song Chien, Plakins Bay, on the northwest coast of Korea, south of Cape Brant, Feb. 19, landed from three steamers, escorted by three warships, at night, and started immediately on a march to the town of Fusan. Sources here, close to the Korean border,

A RUSSIAN SPY SHOT.

London, March 3.—The Nagasaki correspondent of the Express says that a large number of Russian spies have been captured at Japanese seaports, during the past three weeks. One disguised as a cook was found on a troop-jaden frigate as she was leaving the harbor. He sprang overboard and the guards shot and killed him while he was swimming.

FATAL RACE RIOT

Two Killed and Many Wounded in Arkansas Affray.

Fort Smith, Ark., March 3.—It is reported here that two white men were killed, and one white man and two negroes seriously wounded in a race riot at Bokashe, Ark., last night. The dead are John Hopper, Paris, Ark., and J. C. Butler, McCurtain, I. T. White laborers on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, at a camp a short distance from Bokashe last night attempted to drive the negro laborers from the town. The negroes resisted and a pitched battle followed. A further clash is feared. The negroes are said to have been fortified in the woods and only seen determined to resist the utmost efforts to dislodge them.

BRITISH FORCE WAS DEFEATED

Desperate Battle in Nigeria—Those Not Killed Were Sold Into Slavery.

London, March 3.—Some interesting details have been received regarding the cutting up of Capt. O'Riordan's party in Northern Nigeria.

From the accounts of survivors it appears that 90 of the force of 120 men were either killed or sold into slavery. A native interpreter, who escaped and brought details, was himself chained up and sold as a slave, and only reached Lokota after enduring terrible hardships.

He says that the force was about to return when attacked, quite unexpectedly, at breakfast. Mr. Amarty Burney was shot through the stomach, but was not killed. The rest of the force was scattered, and some were killed or sold into slavery.

With great difficulty a litter was made by the natives, who, in addition to being harassed by the enemy, were attacked by swarms of bees, but after two hours the fighting became so hot that the body that was trapped.

The little force fought all day. Towards evening a square was formed, and the only remaining cartridges were fired. The force was shot by a poisoned arrow, and died soon afterwards. The remainder of the force was then overwhelmed.

OLD RESIDENT DEAD

Mrs. Bass Lived in Northeast Portion of City for Sixty Years.

The death occurred yesterday afternoon of one of London's oldest and most respected residents in the person of Mrs. Mary Bass, relict of James Bass, who passed away at her residence, 562 Piccadilly street. The deceased was 65 years of age, and had lived in this city for sixty years.

She was born in Toronto, her father being a soldier in the Fifty-third Highland Regiment. In 1844 she came to London, thus spending 60 years in the Forest City, and residing all of the time in the northeastern portion. She had been an invalid for over three years. She is survived by three daughters and one son—Mrs. Dunlevy, wife of Quartermaster-Sergeant Dunlevy, of Wolseley Barracks; Mrs. Alex. Wootton, and Mrs. Pearson, of this city, and William, of Detroit; also by three sisters and a brother, as follows: Mrs. Fred Drew and Mrs. E. Loveless, of this city, and Mrs. Chas. Donohue, of Aurora, and Thos. Devoy, of London.

The funeral will be held on Saturday afternoon to Woodland Cemetery at 3 o'clock. At 2:30 there will be services at the house conducted by Rev. Dyson Hague, pastor of the Memorial Church.

THE WAR SITUATION.

Korean bandits and Russians fight, both losing heavily. Japs are driven back in a clash near Ping Yang, but it was evidently an affair of scouts.

The Japanese government has increased the war tax by seventy million yen. Chinese generals are reported as favoring the Japs, and the movement of their troops to the Manchurian border is causing France some anxiety, as an active alliance between the two yellow races might bring her into the fray.

Nothing definite is known as to the situation at Port Arthur. A rumor has reached New York that it is the intention of the Russians to evacuate the fortress, and on the other hand the Jap squadron has mysteriously disappeared, and the Russians think it due to their repeated repulses of the Mikado's men. There is no official confirmation of the last reported bombardment of Port Arthur. An army of several thousand Japs has landed on the northwest coast of Korea, and is advancing into Manchuria. A raiding party has destroyed a mile or so of the railroad near Harbin, the Russian base. The rumor of yesterday that Port Arthur had fallen is not substantiated.

British Warship Sails to Korea to Remove Cannibals.

Ottawa, March 3.—The following cablegram was received by the Secretary of State:

"London, March 2, 1904.—To Hon. R. W. Scott, Ottawa: In reference to your cable of the 17th ult., regarding safety of Canadian missionaries in Korea, the foreign office advises me that in view of the reporter sinking of a Japanese merchant vessel his majesty's minister in Seoul telegraphed the missionaries on the 2nd ult., to advise him of the man-of-war rather than send the women and children by a Japanese vessel. They replied that they would await further instructions. The admiralty has since instructed the commander-in-chief of the China station to send a ship to Long Chin for the missionaries and their wives and children there calling at Wonsan on the way."—Signed Strathearn.

LEAVES LONDON

Mr. W. Thrasher, inland Revenue Officer, transferred to Sarina.

Mr. Walter Thrasher, deputy collector of inland revenue, has been notified of his transfer from the London office to Sarina. He will commence his new duties next week.

Mr. Thrasher succeeds Mr. Hicks, the latter having been transferred to Palmerston at his own request. Mr. Thrasher was appointed two years ago, coming from Chatham here, and during his stay in London he has made many friends, who will be sorry to hear of his removal. He is a member of the champion London whist team, and his place will be hard to fill.

SENATORIAL VACANCIES

The Government Has the Appointments Under Consideration.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, March 3.—The Government have had under consideration the question of appointing senators. There are vacancies, one of which is in Ontario, one in Quebec, and two in Nova Scotia. It is understood that the appointments will be made by the Governor-General.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

AGAINST BELL COMPANY

Sandwich Town Council Refuses to Renew the Franchise.

Sandwich, Ont., March 3.—The town council last evening decided to refuse a renewal of the franchise to the Bell Telephone Company, as the present system in the town is regarded as unsatisfactory. The council will await the decision of the Privy Council in the dispute between the Bell Company and the City of Toronto before it arrives at a decision.

FIRE IN LEGISLATURE

The Telegraph Office in Parliament Buildings Ablaze.

Toronto, March 3.—Night watchman E. R. Lucas and Sam Dunbar discovered a fire in the C. P. R. telegraph office on the right-hand side of the main hall of the Parliament buildings shortly after 1 o'clock this morning. They turned in an alarm, which was made general and managed by the use of the fire hose in the building, to keep down the flames till the city brigades arrived, who soon extinguished the fire. The telegraph office and desk were burned and considerable damage was done to the ceiling. The fire is supposed to have been caused by the lighting of a cigarette in the basement and coming up through the floor. The loss will not likely exceed \$500.

MISSIONARIES SAFE

British Warship Sails to Korea to Remove Cannibals.

Ottawa, March 3.—The following cablegram was received by the Secretary of State:

"London, March 2, 1904.—To Hon. R. W. Scott, Ottawa: In reference to your cable of the 17th ult., regarding safety of Canadian missionaries in Korea, the foreign office advises me that in view of the reporter sinking of a Japanese merchant vessel his majesty's minister in Seoul telegraphed the missionaries on the 2nd ult., to advise him of the man-of-war rather than send the women and children by a Japanese vessel. They replied that they would await further instructions. The admiralty has since instructed the commander-in-chief of the China station to send a ship to Long Chin for the missionaries and their wives and children there calling at Wonsan on the way."—Signed Strathearn.

LEAVES LONDON

Mr. W. Thrasher, inland Revenue Officer, transferred to Sarina.

Mr. Walter Thrasher, deputy collector of inland revenue, has been notified of his transfer from the London office to Sarina. He will commence his new duties next week.

Mr. Thrasher succeeds Mr. Hicks, the latter having been transferred to Palmerston at his own request. Mr. Thrasher was appointed two years ago, coming from Chatham here, and during his stay in London he has made many friends, who will be sorry to hear of his removal. He is a member of the champion London whist team, and his place will be hard to fill.

SENATORIAL VACANCIES

The Government Has the Appointments Under Consideration.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, March 3.—The Government have had under consideration the question of appointing senators. There are vacancies, one of which is in Ontario, one in Quebec, and two in Nova Scotia. It is understood that the appointments will be made by the Governor-General.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane. The standing of the late Senator Cochrane.

BANDITS FIGHT RUSSIANS; BOTH SIDES LOSE HEAVILY

Japan Increases the War Tax by Seventy Million Yen—Russian Refugees Suffer Greatly.

A BIG BATTLE IMMINENT IN NORTHERN KOREA

Chinese Generals Ask Permission to Ally Themselves With the Japs—Patrols Clash Near Ping Yang, Japs Being Driven Back—Destroying the Railroad.

London, Thursday, March 3.—It now seems clear that the story of a bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese on Feb. 29 is a re-echo of previous attacks.

BANDITS FIGHT RUSSIANS.

From Yin Kow comes an unconfirmed report that 300 bandits, armed with modern rifles, have attacked a Russian post to the west of Hai Cheng (22 miles east by north of New Chang). There was severe fighting, and both sides lost heavily. This report is discredited at Yin Kow, but it is true it indicates that a serious danger is confronting Russia in these well-armed bandits. According to the Daily Mail's account of this affair 350 Japanese found the bandits in these well-armed bandits. According to the Daily Mail's account of this affair 350 Japanese found the bandits in these well-armed bandits.

CHINESE FAVOR JAPS.

The Harbin, Manchuria, correspondent of the Paris Matin says it is rumored that Chinese Generals Ma and Chiang have asked permission to ally themselves with the Japanese, "that is now certain," the correspondent continues, "that at the beginning of hostilities the Japanese wanted to land troops at a point near Shan Hai Kwan, and that the Chinese prevented them. Liao Yang, between Mukden and New Chang, is becoming the nucleus of an important Russian army. Surprise is expressed at Harbin that the Japanese have not attacked Dally, and it is believed that they abstained from fear of the submarine defenses there. Passengers arriving here by the last regular train from Port Arthur say that town was quiet. I learn from a Port Arthur correspondent that the Japanese are expected to arrive here by the last regular train from Port Arthur say that town was quiet. I learn from a Port Arthur correspondent that the Japanese are expected to arrive here by the last regular train from Port Arthur say that town was quiet.

DESTROYING THE RAILROAD.

A mile and a quarter of the Siberian Railway, according to the Tokio reports, has been destroyed in the Ninguta district between Vladivostok and Harbin.

The Tien Tsin correspondent of the Standard cables that the Russians are strongly fortifying points south of Mukden. Thousands of coolies, who are working day and night on the ramparts and entrenchments of Hai Cheng, are compelled to labor without pay.

THE SINEWS OF WAR.

Tokio, March 2.—The parliamentary elections have passed quietly, but full returns will not be in for several days. The cabinet met and discussed war taxation measures in extra session today. It is now planned to increase by 70,000,000 yen the amount to be raised by taxation. The income tax on land and spirits and tobacco increased and some new taxes created. The Emperor today issued a rescript, countersigned by the Minister of State, summoning the Diet to meet a special session on March 12. It is not believed that the session will last over ten days.

St. Petersburg, March 2.—General Kurapatkin has