

FIRST FIGHT ON LAND BRINGS LOSS TO JAPAN.

Cossacks Attack Japanese Skirmishers and Take a Few Prisoners— Russian Efforts to Obtain More Ships. Russia's Story of the Beginning of the War Accuses Japan of Treachery—Russia Angry at the United States.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—A dispatch from Fort Arthur says the first land encounter occurred yesterday. A picket of Cossacks attacked a small detachment of Japanese troops on Korean territory. The Cossacks captured some Japanese prisoners on whom they found maps and papers.

CHARGES AGAINST JAPAN.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—A Russian account of the events immediately preceding the rupture with Japan is published in the official Messenger today with the object of rectifying errors in the statements from Japanese sources. In this account it is stated that on receipt of the last Japanese proposals, January 18, the government immediately proceeded to examine the Japanese demands, and on January 25, M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, was informed, in reply to his inquiry, that the czar had accepted the Russian proposals.

JAPAN ACCUSED OF DUPLICITY.

On Feb. 6, at 4 p. m., M. Kurino quit unexpectedly handed Count Lamsdorff two notes, notifying him of the rupture of the negotiations and of the diplomatic relations between the two countries. He stated that he, M. Kurino, and his staff would leave St. Petersburg Feb. 10.

DISASTER TO RUSSIAN TROOPS.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—With reference to the sensational reports of a disaster to Russian troops at Lake Baikal, (one report saying that three regiments were drowned while attempting to cross the ice covered lake), it is explained that the trans-Baikal line was blocked at the Baikal station during the night of Feb. 18, by an avalanche of snow which fell from a neighboring mountain. A train having troops on board dashed into the ob-

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RAIN AND FLOODS.

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NOTICE TO MARINERS.

SCITUATE, Mass., Feb. 16.—The light at the mouth of the harbor, situated at 4 1/2 m. It was erected in 1831, and was a red light on a tall, round rock, extending to the North Breaker.

THE DESTROYER.

Edward Sydney Taylor. A warship of steel and fire; Aly from nerves obey; My drum beats on my side; My gun is my ally; To slay his puny crew; A slay of hell, a scourge of God; The royal vessel, high of heart; When foul fog curtains droop and meet; My rattle pulse begins to beat; A breathing spell is hardly seen; As though that ocean jungle green I, veiled-footed, creep.

ABOUT RUSSIA.

Marriage does indeed become a lottery in the Russian province of Smolensk. Every three months there is a most extraordinary lottery drawing. The tickets cost about fifty cents and there is only one prize. This consists of the entire sum made by the sale of the tickets, amounting to about \$2,500, together with a lady described as of noble birth.

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CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson. Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA. EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

OTTAWA. Bishop Sweeney's Will Still Before the Supreme Court. Hon. Mr. Blair en Route to St. John. A Big Telescope on a Farm. The Alaska Boundary.

OTTAWA, Feb. 22.—In the supreme court today judgments were resumed in the appeal of Travers v. Bishop Casey and were incomplete at the hour of adjournment.

OTTAWA, Feb. 22.—Two men were lost by the str. York Castle, which arrived today from Delagoa Bay, in an attempt to give aid on Feb. 21 to the Bangor, Maine, schooner.

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