

JAPAN HAS STRENGTHENED HER CHEMULPO FLEET.

Another Fleet Stationed at Prince Jerome Gulf.

Japanese Horses Said to be a Poor Lot.

London cable — There is no confirmation from any source of yesterday's report of another attack on Port Arthur by the Japanese fleet, nor is there any news of fighting on sea or land. Japan is still enforcing the strictest censorship for the purpose of screening the landings and concentrations of her forces in Korea, and there is not the least reason to suppose that the absence of news means that there is none to be told. A brief, pithy telegram from one of the Daily Mail's correspondents at Chofoo, dated yesterday, discloses something of what is happening. It says: "I have returned in a despatch boat from Chemulpo, where there is a full Japanese activity. The same is the case at Seoul. All the troops have left for the front. Yesterday a detachment of 2,000 entered at Chemulpo, leaving details to protect the stores. Transports continue to arrive at the rate of one a day, with troops and provisions on board. These are now being landed near Hwangju, where a large force of Japanese infantry is collecting. A serious defect has been discovered in the Japanese horse landed, as it is feared that most of their horses will be unserviceable."

"The Japanese squadron at Chemulpo has been strengthened, and a squadron of twelve battleships and cruisers has been stationed permanently in Prince Jerome Gulf, between the Cheblido and Asan anchorages. Yesterday I saw a cruiser of the Nitaka type beached at the entrance of Man'yung Creek. I went there to note that she was deserted, except for a Japanese guard. "The Koreans are hostile to the Japanese, and are giving the Russians assistance in North Korea."

The foregoing is one of the few uncensored despatches that have been received here since the beginning of the war. The difficulty about the horses was foreseen by the English and other foreigners acquainted with Japan, where horseflesh is comparatively little practiced or understood. The army animals are mostly undersized and weedy. A majority are mere ponies. Prince Jerome Gulf, mentioned by the correspondent, is a small bay, the entrance of which is at Chemulpo Inlet, the Asan anchorage at its head.

The discovery of the stranded ship leads to speculation. The vessel is extremely difficult to maneuver, and she may have accidental run ashore. Alternately it may be to confirm the previously stated story that a Japanese vessel disabled in the light with the Nitaka. The Nitaka type includes vessels of that name and the Tush. They are protected cruisers of 6,000 tons, and carrying six 6-inch guns. They have been captured, and were built in Japan in 1,000 Russians Disabled.

London cable — The Cologne Gazette, St. Petersburg, says that the Russian officers have learned that the troops in crossing Lake Baikal encountered tremendous difficulties. The snowdrifts were so high that the thermometer registering 10 degrees of frost. One thousand men were disabled by frost bite. Inadequate clothing was provided and the troops were insufficiently fed. One great danger was the frequent appearance of crevices in the ice, often over 100 yards in length.

Mediation Would be Premature. Tokyo cable — Much attention is given here to a telegram from Vienna, intimating that mediation is mooted. The Jiji Shimbun, the most influential and independent of Japanese newspapers, says that intervention might be natural if the war were prolonged, but altogether it would be premature as yet. Japan could not accept mediation unless her original demands were conceded, future peace guaranteed, and Russia pay a reasonable indemnity. Japan has borne the burden of checking Russian aggression. She has been compelled to constantly increase her armaments, thereby hampering commerce.

It is stated that the Japanese Consul at Chofoo warns the Great Northern Telegraph Company that any attempt to repair the cable between Chofoo and Port Arthur would be a breach of neutrality. The company replied that no attempt to repair the cable was made without permission from the Government.

Quiet at Vladivostok. Vladivostok cable says — Several Russian newspaper correspondents and residents of this place, who left here a short while ago, have returned. They say they found the conditions of living at Nivosh and Harbin to be less favorable than here.

Everything is quiet at Vladivostok. The rise in the price of provisions is slight, and trade continues. The Blizzard has ceased, and there are now snowdrifts stretching for 60 or 70 miles from the fortress.

Schools have been started here for the instruction of hospital nurses, who are recruited from among the wives and daughters of prominent citizens. Among them

the wife of Gen. Von Sonetz, Commandant at Vladivostok.

Japanese Corean Protocol. Tokyo cable says — Powerful independent papers state that the new Japanese-Corean protocol merely existed in fact, and what was recognized by the other powers, namely, Japan's commercial and strategic pre-eminence in Korea, for which she has been forced to fight twice in ten years. It is added that two dangerous confrontations have been averted, and that the Japanese have been able to maintain a supreme military and naval force there, and must appoint an able representative. A short cut would have been to disregard the independence of Korea and carry out the necessary reforms, but Japan must maintain her present honorable position so long as Korea keeps good faith. Until acknowledging her inherent weakness, she invites annexation by Japan. The Japanese demands upon Russia were the same as are now embodied in the protocol, which must have been forced on her own free will. The present arrangement is to the advantage of all interested powers, and it removes a storm centre from the Far East.

Japanese Lost Vessel. London cable — A despatch to the Chronicle from Shanghai says that a Japanese torpedo boat destroyed was found at Port Arthur at low tide last Sunday, she having been sunk in the harbor. Six unexploded Japanese torpedoes were also found. These were exploded on Saturday. During the attack on February 25th, the Russian cruiser Askold burst, wounding one man. This, according to the agent, was the only Russian loss.

Flight from Port Arthur. London cable — Stories are appearing, told by persons who fled from Port Arthur, from which it appears that the first Japanese shots produced a panicky stampede, the people abandoning their property and their clothes, except what they wore.

Trains and vehicles were quickly filled to overflowing. A woman, demoralized by fear, dropped her baby in the street. Of course it was killed. The intense cold experienced by the refugees in crossing Siberia en route to Russia caused terrible sufferings. The Russian official, who had acted coolly and promptly in adding the refugees to depart. Natives who have arrived at Tientsin tell remarkable stories of the unpreparedness and lack of provisions at Port Arthur and Vladivostok. As an indication of the conditions at the latter place, they say that a wild deer caught in the neighborhood of the harbor sold for 300 roubles (\$150) a pound.

Still Mining the Harbor. Tien-Tsin cable — It is stated that the Russians are still mining the entrance to New-Chwang. Several accidents have happened to men employed in laying the mines, owing to the strength of the river current and the tides.

Anti-Russian proclamations in Chinese have been posted in New-Chwang were torn down by Russian soldiers.

PANIC AT VLADIVOSTOK.

Wildest Disorder Among the Civilians of the Place.

London cable — The Express prints a despatch from Shanghai, in which its correspondent says he has just arrived from Kobe, where it is impossible to break through the most rigid censorship he ever experienced. The correspondent adds that he had an interview at Kobe with W. J. Lippe, an American further, who was forced to quit Vladivostok on Feb. 19. Mr. Lippe described the city as then being in a complete panic. No news had been received since the war began. The telegraph line was wholly devoted to the transmission of official messages to and from St. Petersburg. Private messages were refused. The people were terror-stricken, and all their thoughts were bent on escaping. There were pitiful scenes at the railway station, where the authorities allowed 110 persons to have daily empty troop trains that were going west. The people fought and ran to the station, but the trains were full. The people were in a state of panic, and the city was in a state of confusion. The Japanese had taken the city, and the Russian fleet was in the harbor. The city was in a state of panic, and the people were in a state of confusion.

Not Until Then Will Correspondents be Allowed. London cable says — A despatch from the correspondent of the Express who has just arrived at Shanghai from Tokyo, describes the Japanese embarkations up to Feb. 28. The despatch of the whole first reserves was then complete, and the second reserves were being mobilized. He

are now practically bottled up. When Mr. Lippe left there was still the wild disorder. Constant false alarms of a bombardment added to the terror of the people. Thirty-two searchlights were nightly flashed seaward. The military were constantly on the alert. The artillerymen in the forts slept alongside their guns. One hundred and seventy-five Japanese disguised as coolies were caught on Feb. 11, while attempting to blow up a bridge and the railway. A despatch from Vladivostok says that a corps of volunteer cavalry is being formed there composed largely of officials, merchants and lawyers. They are equipped with their own horses and equipment.

COKEAN'S JOIN RUSSIANS.

Gen. Plung Wires This Surprising Information.

London cable — An official despatch from St. Petersburg, timed 4 a. m., says that Gen. Plung reports that no enemy has been seen by the patrols before Ping-Yang or Gensan. The Japanese force in the vicinity of Ping-Yang consists of 6,200, including cavalry. No particulars have been obtained concerning the Russian troops. The Russian troops joined the Russians between Ping-Yang and Seoul. Ping-Yang is being fortified. All is quiet at Port Arthur, where the well-known Manchuria. It has been learned that the Japanese are bringing troops by sea from Fusan to Chemulpo (on Ping-Yang Inlet, where they come to Ping-Yang. Between 1,000 and 2,000 Korean troops have been sent to Ping-Yang from Seoul. Our patrols on Feb. 28 were within 12 versts (eight miles) of Ping-Yang, and reported that the Chinese have fortified the town. The enemy's troops are arriving daily.

According to Korean reports a detachment of 2,500 Japanese, with artillery, landed at Song-Chen (Huang-Seng, north of Cape Prut), and on Feb. 19 marched toward Southern Manchuria.

There have been heavy snowfalls at Port Arthur and Manchuria recently. At Port Arthur there were 10 degrees of frost, and Vladivostok had a heavy snow storm.

ICE PREVENTS IT.

Port Arthur Not Yet Invested by the Japanese.

London cable — The newspapers here reproduce reports from New York and Washington saying that Port Arthur has been invested by Japanese, but none of the despatches received in London corroborate them, and the newspapers suppose such a statement untrue, as it is believed that the ice as yet renders such a movement impossible. A despatch to the Chronicle from Harbin reports strenuous activity at Port Arthur. Officers, soldiers and coolies are working day and night transporting provisions and munitions. Soldiers are supplying the lack of horses and are drawing carts. The town is practically deserted, but some civilians still linger there; others who left, seeing how little damage the Japanese have done, are applying to be allowed to return.

Fifteen Chinese have been arrested on suspicion of conniving to aid the enemy. It is stated that Gen. Snayroff has left Manchuria to replace Gen. Stoessel, the commander of the Port Arthur garrison.

Fleet Will be Lost.

London cable — One of the Times' Russian correspondents states that Gen. Dragomiroff, ex-Governor of Kiev, a well-known writer on military subjects, was summoned to St. Petersburg, and invited to share in the deliberations on the conduct of the war. He very severely attacked the Government policy in the far east, and insisted emphatically that both the fleet and army ought to have evacuated Port Arthur. He ordered to avoid still greater disaster. His advice was unwelcome, and has been energetically repudiated. Nevertheless the military authorities consider that Admiral Alexeff has committed such blunders that probably the whole fleet will be lost.

SKIRMISH AT PING-YANG.

Russian Official Despatch Says Japs Fled.

St. Petersburg cable says — Major Gen. Plung, Viceroy Alexeff's chief of staff, sends in the following telegram dated March 2: "According to additional information which has reached me, our patrols having passed the night twelve versts (eight miles) from Ping-Yang, approached that town on the morning of Feb. 29. They were closely pressing a Japanese patrol of seven officers. Lieut. Lonskoff attacked this patrol with three Cossacks, forcing it to retreat at a gallop towards the gates of the town. "The presence of our patrols near Ping-Yang caused great alarm, and soon the enemy's sharpshooters manned the walls and towers and opened the walls and towers and opened the gates of the town. According to the report our patrols approached within seven hundred paces of the town, which they found to be surrounded by both old and new ramparts. These, however, were not occupied by the enemy, and it is supposed the Japanese have not more than 15,000 men in Ping-Yang."

AFTER FIRST LAND BATTLE.

Not Until Then Will Correspondents be Allowed.

London cable says — A despatch from the correspondent of the Express who has just arrived at Shanghai from Tokyo, describes the Japanese embarkations up to Feb. 28. The despatch of the whole first reserves was then complete, and the second reserves were being mobilized. He

generally confirms the previous accounts of the energy displayed, and the smoothness of the work. He says that all convoys have been ordered away from the posts, and have been forbidden to leave Tokyo on pain of deportation. He quotes Prime Minister Katsura as saying on Feb. 24 that it would possibly be a month before the correspondents would be allowed to take the field. The Japanese first line must be in position, and the first big land battle fought before the newspaper men could go to the front. The officials are using every device to mystify. They even place wrong numbers on the troop trains to mislead regarding the actual number of troops that are being forwarded. It is estimated that approximately 48,000 have sailed from Nagasaki for Korea since Feb. 10. The Prime Minister said that the plan of campaign was only known to the Emperor and half a dozen heads of the staff. Even the Cabinet Ministers were not informed of the subject. It is almost impossible to believe how complete is the secrecy and the popular ignorance in Tokyo. The secrecy of the officials is wrapped up in irritating courtly and general mystery, and that there will be no heavy land fighting before the end of April, when three expeditionary forces will be ready to move simultaneously on Anjo, the Yalu River and Vladivostok.

ATTACHED OUTPOST.

Chinese Brigands Attack and Kill Forty Russian Soldiers.

Yonghow cable says — It is reported from Chinese sources that the Chinese and other brigands, including the Chinese soldiers, are harassing the Russians in the neighborhood of Hai-Chen and Liao-Yang, on the Manchurian Railroad. It is stated that these brigands are well organized, and have abundant supplies of modern rifles and ammunition. A band of five hundred, armed with Mannlicher rifles, are reported to have attacked a Russian outpost of fifty men at Paleihte, near a Russian garrison. The Russian loss was variously stated to have been from twenty to forty killed or wounded. The brigands lost eighty-six killed and wounded, including six Japanese. Russian reinforcements arriving, they burned the native village. The Russian wounded were sent to Harbin.

TO PROTECT THEM.

Britain Sends Warship for Canadian Missionaries.

Ottawa, Ont., despatch — There is something more than mere sentiment in British connection. Immediately hostilities broke out in the Orient, Britain was felt for the safety of the Canadian missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, stationed in Korea. At the request of Rev. Mr. McCurdy, of Halifax, Hon. E. W. Scott communicated with the British Minister in Seoul, the capital of Korea, and his good offices in procuring the safety of the missionaries and their families. The British Minister promised to do so, and accordingly had word sent to the missionaries to proceed to Long-Chin, on the eastern coast, whence they and their party could be taken to Wonsan, a Korean treaty port. Meanwhile the Secretary of State, on Feb. 17, had the Canadian High Commissioner in London, Lord Strathcona, make further representations to the Imperial authorities in the matter, and to-day Hon. Mr. Scott received a cablegram from London, informing him that the missionaries had been communicated with, and would be sent to Long-Chin and Wonsan, whence they would be transported to a British man-of-war, probably to the British port of Hong Kong.

So solicited were the Imperial authorities for the safety of these Canadian subjects of His Majesty that they declined the proposal to have the missionaries and their wives and little ones put to sea in the event of a dangerous situation. The cablegram received by the Secretary of State yesterday is as follows: "London, March 2, 1904. Hon. R. W. Scott, Ottawa: "In reference to your cable of the 17th ultimo, the Foreign Office advises me that in view of the reported sinking of a Japanese merchant vessel, His Majesty's Minister in Seoul telegraphed the missionaries on the 23rd ult. to await a British 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, calling at Wonsan on the way."

Offers to Nurse.

Numerous offers have been received at St. Petersburg from women in Germany, France, and especially England, to go to the front as nurses. Dr. Nutzer, a woman physician of Garmisch, has already been enrolled for this work.

Will Keep Open Door.

New York despatch — Baron Suematsu, son-in-law of the Marquis Ito, and formerly Minister of the Interior in Japan, arrived here yesterday, from Yokohama, on his way to London. Baron Suematsu spoke of course, unofficially about the far eastern war, saying his country was not seeking territory, but that it was a matter of national existence for Japan. Regarding reports of interference by France he said that so far the attitude of the government had been conspicuously correct, but if France saw fit to send warships to fight Japan, his country would not mind fighting another. He said that Japan had violated international law in beginning the war. The purpose of Japan in Korea, and in Manchuria, he said, will be to secure the same trade privileges for all nations. The Baron said he was going to England for his health.

Waiting for the Next Move.

St. Petersburg cable — Since the disappearance of the Japanese fleet from before Port Arthur the Rus-

THEFT OF A LANTERN CAUSED AN OUTBREAK.

Peculiar Conduct of Count Von Pueckler Leads to Bloodshed.

Berlin, March 7. — The rising of native troops in the Cross and Nassanang Rivers region of German Kamerun, Equatorial West Africa, resulting in several fatalities of the Northwest Kamerun Company being burned down and four Germans killed, as announced in these despatches on Monday, was caused by the eccentric conduct of Count Von Pueckler, and was directly due to the theft of a lantern from the Northwest Kamerun Company. Von Pueckler, who was the Government's district commissioner, was reputed to be a quiet and sensible administrator, having sound knowledge of native ways and character. He formerly was an employee of the Northwest Kamerun Company, but recently had been employed by the Government. Herr Schoeller, president of the company, received in December last a long letter from Count Von Pueckler regarding the stolen lantern, concluding with the assertion that he intended to make the property of white men respected by burning five villages.

Herr Schoeller inferred from the language of Von Pueckler that the latter was deranged, and wrote both to the count, and to the agents of the company, commanding that nothing be done over so trivial a matter. Herr Schoeller's letter arrived too late. Count Von Pueckler, with twenty-five men, tried to arrest the headmen of one of the villages, but the count was killed and his escort with difficulty escaped. During the next few days the company's factories on the Cross River were burned down and four agents were killed. A punitive expedition has now arrived in the hostile district.

Count Von Pueckler, as appears from information subsequently received by Herr Schoeller, had recently given way to fits of fury against the negroes, attributable to the state of his health, as a result of his long residence in the hot climate of Equatorial West Africa.

China Neutral.

Paris cable — Credence is not given by the Foreign Office to the reports that China is on the eve of joining Japan in the war. All the official papers here insist that China proposes to observe her declaration of neutrality and that the Chinese troops sent north have instructions to enforce her 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 the undisciplined state of the army it is impossible to prevent them from leaving.

Won't Cede Islands.

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 as in time of peace.

TWO ARMY CORPS READY.

Great British Storehouses Are to be Constructed.

London, March 7. — Mr. Arnold-Forster, the Secretary of War, is busy carrying out the promises of his recent Liverpool speech. His present work is directed toward the provision of an absolutely complete outfit for two army corps. Every article that would be required by the first and second army corps is to be stored and ready for distribution at various points of concentration in the command. Not only is the equipment of the men to be ready, but adequate provision is to be made so that transports can be fitted out at a moment's notice. For this purpose a storehouse will be constructed at D. p. Ford and Goport at a cost of about £70,000. Here the winter blankets and the thousand and one other necessities for a lusty fighting troop will be stored. The Admiralty and War Office will jointly carry out this service.

DEFICIT OF FIVE MILLIONS.

Lord Milner Reveals Financial Strait of the Transvaal.

Johannesburg, March 7. — Lord Milner, British High Commissioner in South Africa, in delivering the Presidential address before the Intercolonial Council for the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, revealed the grave financial condition of the colony. He said a deficit amounting to \$5,000,000 was due to the shrinkage in railroad receipts and the general paralysis of industry, while almost all of the \$150,000,000 had already been expended on railroads, repatriation of the Boers and the development of the country. The only resources now were patience and economy.

Lord Milner said he was not dismayed, and that he hoped for improvements when an adequate supply of labor was forthcoming.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

Fire in the Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Toronto despatch — Lightning set fire to the Parliament buildings shortly after 1 o'clock this morning, and for a time caused considerable excitement there. The flames, which broke out in the telegraph office in the main hall of the ground floor, were described by the watchman as following an explosion of a powder.

The fire was discovered by Watchman E. R. Lucas and Sam Dunbar, who immediately sent in an alarm and set to work to subdue the flames with the fire appliances in the building. They were able to keep them from spreading to any extent before the arrival of the Yonge street section, when the fire was soon put out. The flames, however, had destroyed the telegraph office and had then made their way to the ceiling, burning through this to the floor of the passage in front of the Legislative Chamber.

Hon. J. R. Stratton, who was at the buildings, estimated the damage at between \$500 and \$1,000.

SNOWBOUND 42 HOURS.

Wife of General Manager Hays Has Unpleasant Experience.

London Advertiser: After having been stalled in a snowdrift in Blue Cut, near St. Mary's, for 42 hours, Mrs. Charles M. Hays, wife of the general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, reached this city about 5 o'clock this morning, and was sent on her journey westward to St. Louis on a special train. Mrs. Hays, accompanied by her party, left Toronto in the special car from Canada on Monday, coming over the old main line via Stratford, to London, where it was the intention to attach the special car to a fast express. But that afternoon the train became stalled, and despite the most heroic efforts of the officials of the Stratford and London division, the train remained in the snow near St. Mary's, and did not reach London until daybreak to-day. The train is known as No. 1, and at the time it became stalled it was being pulled by two locomotives. Two men were sent from Stratford, and also two more from London, but they were powerless to help themselves, much less the train in the drift. The snow ranged in the cuts along the line from four to eight feet in depth, and this had to be shoveled out before the train could be brought into London.

END OF AN OUTLAW.

The Terror of Big Muddy River Shot by Sheriff.

Missouri Jaw, March 7. — The fatal shooting of outlaw Jones is a very satisfactory result to the residents along the Big Muddy River. He was looked upon as one of the worst characters in that section, and had been a regular terror to everyone. It is reported by Indians, who have returned from this section, that a Sheriff called on Jones to arrest a man who was working for him for some offense. The Sheriff started off with his prisoner, and several miles out he was overtaken by the outlaw Jones, who had pursued them. Jones got a drop on the Sheriff, ordering him to throw up his hands. He did so, and Jones then took the Sheriff's horse, and, disarming him, sent him home on foot. Jones returning to his cabin with the man who had been arrested.

The Sheriff returned with a posse of 25 men and started searching for Jones. It was some time before he was located. He was taken by surprise and ordered to surrender. He immediately reached for his gun, but was first on and shot through the body and head, instantly dying. His cabin contained all kinds of goods which it is thought had been stolen.

OATS ON SHEEP.

English Farmer Has Peculiar Oat Patch.

London, March 7. — A farmer living in one of London's suburbs, says he has the most remarkable sheep in the world. He has been feeding the animal on oats. Some of the grain fell on the sheep's back, and stuck in the wool. The grain has sprouted and the young shoots may be seen growing on the sheep's back.

Montreal. — Fred McWhinnie, the young Englishman, who pleaded guilty a few days ago to forging the name of T. S. Vipond & Co. to a cheque on the Montreal Bank for \$289, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment to-day.