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The Fall

of Port Arthur.

That the fall of Port Arthur was inevitable has probably not for months past been doubted by anyone at all intimately acquainted with the conditions under which the fortress was being held. But the defence had been conducted with such desperately stubborn bravery that there are few perhaps of those who, from an outside position, were closely watching the progress of events but were somewhat taken by surprise when, on January 2nd, the announcement came that Port Arthur had surrendered. On the first day of the new year General Stoessel, the Russian commander, made overtures for surrender to General Nogi. In his message to the Japanese General, General Stoessel intimated that under existing conditions he found further resistance useless, and for the purpose of preventing needless sacrifice of lives he proposed negotiations in reference to capitulation. In response to this message from the Russian General, the necessary steps were at once taken by General Nogi to arrange the terms of surrender. The terms are reported to be that the Russian officers be granted their liberty after promising not to take further part in the war while the privates and non-commissioned officers of the garrison, to the number of 20,000, become prisoners of war. The surrendered fortress was handed over to the Japanese on Tuesday, Jan. 3, and the prisoners marched out the following day. As the result of minute investigations in reference to conditions in Port Arthur, General Nogi reports to Tokio: "The total number of inhabitants is about 35,000, of whom 25,000 are soldiers or sailors. The total number of sick or wounded is 20,000. Common provisions and bread are plentiful, but there is a scarcity of meat and vegetables. There are no medical supplies at Port Arthur. The Japanese are strenuously succoring the people. The capitulation committees are pushing their respective works." The siege of Port Arthur will stand on the world's record of events as one of the great sieges of history. The stubborn valor of the defenders has been beyond praise. Officers and men have done, it would seem, all that brave men could do, to save a doomed fortress. The name of Stoessel will live among the world's great soldiers, and nowhere, it is said, is the gallantry of the Russian commander and his men more generously recognized than in the land of their foes. If the Russians have defended Port Arthur with a persistent valor which challenges the world's admiration, the Japanese besiegers on their part have displayed an ability and a bravery which gives them a position second to none among the soldiers of the world. Here as elsewhere in the war, the Japanese army has been led with great ability, and the men have responded to such leadership with reckless and indomitable courage. Probably no other nation under similar conditions could have effected more, it may be questioned whether any other could have done so much. There is no probability that the capture of Port Arthur will put an end to the war. Russia could not endure the wound her pride would suffer by yielding at this point. For better or for worse she will fight on. But in two ways at least, besides the direct loss involved, the fall of Port Arthur may be expected to affect Russia unfavorably. It will probably make the war still more unpopular at home and serve to render the popular feeling against the autocracy still more acute and it will almost certainly do much to discredit Russia in the eyes of the Chinese and other eastern peoples. This loss of prestige in the eyes of the Chinese people involves a danger for Russia of which her statesmen are by no means insensible.

The Effect

in Russia.

The dispatches indicate that, in the Russian capital and elsewhere throughout the country, there is much bitter feeling over the fall of Port Arthur. It has taken all the heart out of the festivities of the approaching Russian Christmas, and it said that the illuminations and decorations, which are always features of the Russian holidays, may be dispensed with. The churches are filled with the mourning friends and relatives of the soldiers whose lives were sacrificed in the defence of the now fallen fortress. The popular grief and chagrin at the national disaster is accompanied with strong feeling against the Government which is blamed for keeping the people in ignorance of the true state of affairs at Port Arthur. Some of the St. Petersburg newspapers have been unusually outspoken in their

condemnation of the bureaucracy, and the revolutionary element in Russia is evidently endeavoring to make as much as possible out of the situation for the purpose of arousing popular sentiment against the Government. The Government announcement that General Stoessel will be tried by court martial when he returns to Russia is bitterly criticised. For though his action of the Government is recognized as being in accordance with Russian law and precedent, yet it is regarded as a heartless and gratuitous insult to a brave and able commander that such a statement should accompany the announcement of the fall of the fortress which the most devoted heroism of commander and men had failed to save. *The Russ*, of St. Petersburg, which has been particularly outspoken in its criticism of the bureaucracy, declares that the nation's well-wishers could not at this juncture tolerate the idea of peace but adds that no victory is possible with disunion at home, and insists that Japan is counting as much on the possibility of a revolution in Russia as upon her own arms and strategists. A prominent Russian writer is quoted as saying that, unless the people are taken into the Government's confidence in its ultimate purpose it faces inevitable disaster at home.

Political Lying

Dr. William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, was recently received at luncheon by four hundred members of the Canadian Club of Toronto. Professor Osler is a Canadian who has won great distinction in his profession, and the acting president of the club on the occasion alluded to fell justified in introducing him as "the first physician within the British Empire." Dr. Osler gave an address containing many things wise or witty which elicited the applause of his hearers. His remarks in reference to the treatment of public men in Canada by their political opponents, were particularly worthy of note. Every thinking man must admit that the caricaturing and vilification of public men, so habitually indulged in by a large class of writers and speakers is a crying evil and a degrading influence in the political life of this country. We are glad to give further publicity to Dr. Osler's vigorous words in this connection. He is reported as saying: There is far too much evil speaking, lying and slandering in connection with our political life. (Applause) Now, that does seem to me to be an entirely unnecessary and superfluous thing, and it does not seem right that our young men should be brought up in this atmosphere, where there is constantly a feeling of hostility and a slandering attitude in the press towards political opponents: (Hear, hear.) It does no good, and it does a great deal of harm. Now it is not a difficult matter to correct that. If the people would only set their hearts honestly against it and frown it down as a positive vice and as a very serious vice, there is only one way to mend that, and that is a very simple way indeed. That is, to deal with your political opponents in an ordinary, everyday Christian spirit. Now it is said, you cannot bring Christianity into politics. Into a certain type of politics perhaps you cannot, but at any rate you need not call it Christianity. Call it the ordinary, every-day behavior, if not of St. Paul's noble Christian, of Aristotle's true gentleman; and stop this evil speaking, lying and abuse of each other in public press. It does no good, and it does infinite harm. The young men live in an atmosphere which teaches them to distrust their leaders and teachers, and it produces a feeling of hostility and distrust of things political; but where there is as much mud-slinging and talk as there is against a political opponent it very easily passes from the sphere of politics to other spheres, and you distrust your neighbor, and there is a general feeling of unrest, and lack of that harmony and sympathy and brotherhood that we have one towards another as Canadians."

Demands of

Modern Warfare.

In the course of a notable article in the *Nineteenth Century*, Field Marshal, Lord Roberts, says: "A terrible lesson awaits the nation whose soldiers find themselves opposed by equally brave, but better trained opponents on the field of battle. No amount of money, no national sacrifices, will then avail; for modern warfare moves fast and time lost in peace can never be made up during the stress of a campaign. I hold this view very strongly, and would urge my fellow-countrymen with all the force at my command to look the plain facts in the face." Earl Roberts does not advo-

cate compulsory service, because it is distasteful to the nation and incompatible with the conditions of an army which has a large proportion of units in foreign service, but maintains that Great Britain must have a large reserve force, and if the citizens of so great and prosperous a nation as ours are to remain exempt from compulsory service in time of peace, without the safety of the Empire being endangered, the right class or men must be attracted to the regular army by good conditions of pay and pension; and it is the bounden duty of the state to see that every able-bodied man in this country, no matter to what grade of society he may belong, undergo some kind of military training in youth, sufficient to enable him to shoot straight and carry out simple orders if ever his services are required for national defence. Earl Roberts says the report of the commission on the war in South Africa made it clear that much is still needed before Great Britain has an army fit in all respects for war with a modern nation. Among other things, she must have a larger proportion of mounted troops for rapid reinforcement, and in order to quickly seize points of vantage. He refers to the action of the government in ordering new quick firing field guns for the complete re-equipment of the army, as reported by the Associated Press yesterday, and says these guns will be twelve and a half pounders for horse, and eighteen and a half pounders for field artillery. Simultaneously with Earl Roberts' article, it is officially announced that 150 batteries will be supplied with new guns, at a cost of \$17,500,000, and that the order will be executed within twenty months.

Here Senators for the West.

The Dominion Government is said to be considering the advisability of increasing the Senate representation from the West and the enactment of legislation for that purpose may be proposed during the coming session of Parliament. Such legislation, before becoming effective, would, of course, have to be ratified by the Imperial Parliament. The Upper House at present consists of 51 members, distributed as follows:—Ontario and Quebec, 24 each; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 10 each; Prince Edward Island and Manitoba, 4 each; British Columbia, 3; and the Northwest Territories, 2. At confederation the Senate was constituted into three divisions, as follows:—Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, equally represented by twenty-four Senators. In the third group, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had twelve each, but when Prince Edward Island became part of Canada two Senators were taken from each of the former Provinces and given to the Island, which thus obtained its present representation of four. It is said to be the opinion of the Government that the time has now arrived when a fourth division, consisting of Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia, should be created, with representation in the Upper House of twenty-four. As the Senate already contains eleven members from the west, it would need thirteen new Senators to make up the required number. The appointment of thirteen new Senators would not be made immediately but would take place from time to time. A glance at the census returns will show that the west is entitled to more generous representation in the Senate. The Maritime Provinces, with an aggregate population of 893,953, have twenty-four Senators, whereas the west, with a population of 645,517, is represented by only eleven. Furthermore, the population of the west has gained at the rate of nearly 100,000 yearly in arrivals from outside, to say nothing of the natural increase.

Remarkable

if True.

If the facts alleged in the following Associated Press dispatch, from Chicago, can be accepted as trustworthy they afford a striking illustration of the influence of the mind and its beliefs upon the physical health. The dispatch says:—Fred Johnson, 32 years old, is dead of hydrophobia, although he declared he never had been bitten by a mad dog. He became ill last Sunday, and some time before his death attacked his wife and two small children. Then he was fastened to save the family from injury during his attacks of frenzy. Johnson owned a pet dog which last year was bitten by a rabid dog, and the man constantly worried over the matter. Finally a policeman killed the pet. A physician diagnosed Johnson's case and declared the man contracted rabies because he constantly feared hydrophobia.