

RUSSIA RETREATING BEFORE THE JAPANESE FORCES.

Several Small Engagements Fought on the Yalu.

Japs Now Established in Southern Manchuria.

London Cable says.—In the absence of any sort of confirmation of the rumored engagement between the Japanese squadron and the Russian Vladivostock squadron attention is more fixed upon the reported operations between the Yalu River and Mukden, regarding which the stories are more precise and more persistent, but even these appear to rest entirely upon Chinese accounts.

The Government at Tokio maintains its customary silence. The Japanese Legation here has no news.

A despatch to the Daily Telegraph states that the Japanese have advanced from the Yalu River, and have captured Feng-Wang-Chang. They have driven the Russians from the vicinity of that town to the Taku-Kung-Ling eastern pass, and are now in force seventy miles east of New-Chwang. There are 3,000 Russians strongly entrenched at Liao-Yang and Hai-Chang, where a battle is imminent. Small engagements have been fought, the Russians retreating with loss. The Japanese are using the same tactics and are advancing along the same route employed in their war with China.

A Tien-Tsin despatch says: Circumstantial reports from various sources confirm the report that the Japanese have established themselves in Southern Manchuria. It is stated that they have captured Feng-Wang-Chang, retaining the Russians with loss, but there has been no engagement on a great scale. Convincing reports have reached Ying-How that the Japanese have advanced westward from the Yalu River, and are now about 50 miles northwest of Antung. According to native accounts there has been fighting. The Russian troops are acting as if they expected an attack.

A despatch to the Times from Wei-Hai-Wei says that there has been a collision between the Japanese and Russian ships near Haiju, resulting in the retreat of the Russians.

The Tokio correspondent of the Times says that the Russian advance south of Possiet Bay continues. The Times alone reports the fighting at Haiju, which is presumably about sixty miles north of Seoul. Conservative opinion here is that whatever probability attaches to the various stories they cannot at present be regarded as other than rumors.

To some of the military critics it is inconceivable that Japan can really have executed such an unexpected and successful turning of the Russian position on the Yalu River, which it is thought would have necessitated the employment of a much larger force than it is believed Japan can possibly have at this point.

The Daily Telegraph says that if the news of this strange and marvelous collapse of Russian power on land is true, there is nothing to prevent the Japanese from seizing Mukden and the railroad. There has been nothing to compare with this move since Napoleon staggered Europe by appearing in the plains of Chancellery in the Alps. Its effect throughout the East will be stupendous.

The Standard's Tien-Tsin correspondent says that the Japanese authorities are receiving information of their movements and plans was being supplied to Russia. The traitor seems to have been discovered in a well-known Japanese forwarding agent in Tien-Tsin, who was arrested last Monday. He committed suicide in the military prison to-day. Several other Japanese are suspected.

Washington Hears Confirmation.—Washington Despatch.—The Government here has received a telegram from the chief, opposite Port Arthur, to the effect that the Japanese land forces have appeared at Feng-Wang-Chang and Tashan. No details are furnished. The named place is about 45 miles north of Antung, in Manchuria, and the latter is a few miles inland from the mouth of the Yalu River, according to the calculations of the naval officers here. They believe that this movement has placed the Japanese on the Russian flank, and perhaps in the rear and on their line of communication.

MOVING SOUTHWARD.—Russian Forces Approaching the Japanese Main Army.

Tokio, Cable says.—The Russian force which have been reported near the Tumen River, on the northern frontier of Korea, are, according to the latest advices from the front, apparently advancing southward. The scouts have arrived at Kyojo, six miles north of Gen-San.

Work on the proposed railway from Seoul to Wija has been begun by the Japanese Government. Some material from the Seoul-Pusan line is available, and a temporary line will, it is expected, be completed in about six months.

The Russian authorities have cleared the houses for a distance of several miles in the rear of the Manchurian Railway at Liao-Yang, and will use them as barracks for troops about to arrive there.

TO ABANDON NEW-CHWANG. Russians Will Not Wait the Japanese Arrival.

London Cable.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Shanghai says that the Russians are not preparing to hold New-Chwang, which probably will be occupied by the Japanese as soon as the ice allows navigation, which is expected to be about March 18. The Japanese mobilization is proceeding methodically and without undue haste. Everything points to the main force being landed somewhere between Port Arthur and the mouth of the Yalu River. A second expedition is being sent to New-Chwang. It is there, it is probable that the Russians will withdraw from the Yalu and concentrate at a position more suited for meeting an attack. The correspondent repeats the statement that the Russians intend to leave Port Arthur to save itself.

A Harbin despatch to the Chronicle says that the sea continues to be very rough in the Gulf of Pechili, which is swept by constant storms. All the unoccupied men in Port Arthur are being employed in the construction of defenses works. The Chinese officials in Southern Manchuria sometimes refuse to sell food and forage to the Russians on the pretext of China's neutrality. It is reported that 200 Japanese are at Shan-Hai-Kwan wearing Chinese uniforms. The Japanese are distributing in China broad sheets representing Port Arthur as being completely destroyed and occupied by the Japanese.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says that the landing of Japanese at Gen-san is going on day and night. A majority of the troops landed there are going to Ping-Yang. The number is kept secret. The Koreans, according to the despatch, complain of the proceedings of the Japanese, and many of them are taking refuge in Russian territory, where there are several Korean villages. It is believed in St. Petersburg that the Japanese will take the offensive generally as soon as they are able. Russia's role will be long confined to the defensive, barring the enemy's advance.

Corp of War Rumors.

London Cable says.—Among the various rumors printed in the absence of any known happenings is a Yin-Kow report that the Japanese are advancing upon Tien-Huang-Chang, between Mukden and the Korean frontier. This comes from Chinese sources. It is stated, and is partially admitted by the Russians at Yin-Kow, that it is officially dispensed, and is not confirmed from any other source, that the Russians in Northern Korea are gradually but constantly withdrawing to the Yalu River. It is stated in Chinese official quarters in Shanghai that the rival armies are likely to meet at the Yalu River in three or four days.

A despatch from Tokio states that it has been finally decided that only fifteen correspondents will be allowed to accompany the army in the field, nine being British, five Americans, and one of another nationality. The Japanese have taken possession of the whole of the Elliot group islands, and are using them as a base for their torpedo boats. A report from Chefoo states that fifteen Japanese warships and four torpedo boats have been sighted from there, heading for New-Chwang. A Shanghai correspondent says that the Russian defenses to check the Japanese advance in Manchuria include an unbroken line of earthworks from Keuljio to Liao-Yang.

JAPS' FLEET DEPARTS.

Long Official Despatch From Admiral Alexeff.

St. Petersburg Cable says.—Viceroy Alexeff has sent the czar the following message, dated Mukden, March 6: "I have the honor to communicate to your Majesty the following details of the events of March 6: "The enemy's squadron approached Vladivostock towards 11 o'clock in the morning, having passed near Askold Island. After several maneuvers, which involved changes in the squadron's order of battle, two cruisers were left to the north of the island, and the remaining vessels of the squadron steamed along the coast of Usuri Bay, parallel to the shore, and keeping about fifteen miles (approximately ten miles) therefrom. Upon arriving off Mount St. Joseph and Usuri Bay Battery, the squadron, preserving the same order, made towards the battery. The ships opened fire from both sides, evidently first using blank cartridges, in order to warm their guns. At 1.35 p.m., when at a distance of eight versts (approximately 5.1-3 miles) from the shore, the leading ship opened fire with her forward guns, and then the entire squadron steamed along the shore, firing their port guns as they went.

"The enemy did not fire while turning. After the third turn the squadron at 2.25 p.m. ceased firing and steamed off to the southward, about ten miles to the right of Askold Island, finally disappearing at 5.30 p.m. "In all, the enemy fired about 200 shells with no effect. No damage was done to the fortress or the entrench-

ments, and in town and at other parts of the fortifications the damage was insignificant. "The garrison is in excellent spirits, and the operations of preparing the batteries for action were carried out in perfect order. "According to reports of the events of March 7, the enemy's squadron reappeared at 8 o'clock in the morning near Vladivostock. They entered Usuri Bay and proceeded along the coast without opening fire. The squadron then returned and headed for Cape Gamova (Possiet Bay), which it reached at 3.40 p.m. "The enemy finally turned off when opposite Possiet Bay, and departed in a southerly direction."

SEA FIGHT IMMINENT. Believed the Japanese and Russian Squadrons Will Meet.

St. Petersburg Cable says.—The whereabouts of Capt. Reitzenstein's Vladivostock squadron is carefully guarded by the military authorities, but there is no doubt a sea fight is probably imminent, as it is considered certain that in that case the Japanese fleet will be off Vladivostock to prevent the Russian return, giving the Russians co-operating with the Russian land force near the mouth of the Tumen River. If the Russians were outside and the Japanese definitely ascertained the fact, a big sea fight is probably imminent, as it is considered certain that in that case the Japanese fleet will be off Vladivostock to prevent the Russian return, giving the Russians co-operating with the Russian land force near the mouth of the Tumen River. If the Russians were outside and the Japanese definitely ascertained the fact, a big sea fight is probably imminent, as it is considered certain that in that case the Japanese fleet will be off Vladivostock to prevent the Russian return, giving the Russians co-operating with the Russian land force near the mouth of the Tumen River.

TO DEFEND NEW CHWANG. Russians Receive Several Additional Heavy Guns.

Yin-Kow, Cable says.—The British Consul strongly and eloquently urged the foreign women and children to leave New-Chwang before the river opens. The British station gunboat Espiegle will leave as soon as possible, and will not be replaced. The family of the United States Consul, Mr. Miller, will leave to-morrow. It is understood that the neutral powers will not embarrass Japan by the presence of their troops here, and therefore neutral interests at New-Chwang will be officially abandoned.

The tension amongst Russians also continues. There is a general feeling of uneasiness. The minimum number concentrated there would be 400,000. He considered that the maximum Japan would be able to land would be 200,000. Russian authorities are making complete arrangements for the transportation of the troops. Nothing serious could occur in Manchuria within the next six weeks. He insisted that the subject of provisioning the troops and garrisons would create no uneasiness. He believed that Japan had landed 100,000 troops in Korea already.

The general added—"The war will last until a logical and necessary conclusion has been reached; for I do not think the Russians are in a mood to stop before quite finishing. I know nothing of any plan of withdrawing the troops behind Port Arthur and leaving the place to defend itself."

Russia's Protest Valid.

Vienna Cable says.—It is rumored in diplomatic circles that all the Cabinets have informed Russia that they regard the Russian protest against Japan's proceedings as justified by international law. The protest referred to is that issued to the European powers protesting that Japan had violated the law of nations by forcing the Varlag and Korietz to leave Chemulpo harbor and by attacking the Russian fleet at Port Arthur prior to a formal declaration of war, and before the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg or the Russian Minister at Tokio had left their respective posts.

Thank British Troops.

London Cable says.—The Admiralty has received a telegram from the mothers and wives of the Liban officers belonging to the cruiser Varlag, and from the other women of the Liban, to which the Varlag was attached, expressing "heartfelt thankfulness and infinite gratitude" for the treatment accorded the officers and crew of the Varlag and Korietz, who were taken on board the Russian warships were sunk at Chemulpo.

The Earl of Salisbury, First Lord of the Admiralty, replied, thanking the mothers of the dead for their generous appreciation, and adding: "His Majesty's navy will always be glad to give similar aid to the seamen of friendly nations when the occasion arises."

CZAR RECEIVES EDITORS. Says He Always Finds the Truth in Russian Newspapers.

St. Petersburg Cable.—The czar this afternoon received at the Winter Palace the editors of the Novoye Vremya and Vedomosti as a deputation representing the entire press of St. Petersburg. M. Plehve, Minister of the Interior, introduced them to his Majesty. They read an address expressing devotion to the czar and the empire. In reply his Majesty said that he himself read the newspapers, and that he was glad they all, with great truth and dignity, expressed the feelings of the Russian people. The reason the Russian people felt so deeply at the present moment was because the perfidious attack of the Japanese was utterly contrary to the spirit of truth which belongs to the Russian people. The attack caused them great indignation. In conclusion the czar said that he always sought the truth in the Russian newspapers, and was sure always to find it there.

MAQUIS ITO'S MISSION. Object of His Visit to the Korean Emperor.

Tokio, Cable says.—The Japanese Times says that the mission of Marquis Ito as special Imperial Ambassador to the Court of Seoul is welcomed by every Japanese who is conscious of the gravity of the numerous responsibilities placed upon Japan's shoulders with regard to Korea. It must not be inferred that the mission is political in its nature. The Marquis is the bearer of a personal message from the Emperor of Japan to the Korean sovereign of no immediate practical significance, but it cannot be denied that the presence of Ito at the present juncture of a steerman of Ito's standing and prestige must be productive of beneficial and far-reaching effects on the future relations of the two countries.

The Nishi Nishi says that Japan, appreciating the difficulties facing the Korean Emperor in inaugurating reforms in domestic and foreign affairs, in accordance with the new protocol, as a mark of friendly sympathy, despatches her most experienced and honorable statesman to console him and to cement the friendship between the two countries. Doubtless this will be greatly appreciated by the Emperor and the people of Korea.

The Korean Official Gazette announces the outlines of a reform programme increasing the responsibilities and Cabinet Ministers, and correspondingly relieving the Emperor, thus following the Japanese system.

The opening of the Port of Yongampo has been decided upon by the Korean Cabinet. The Emperor's approval is awaited.

USE BODIKES AS RAMPARTS. Czar's Message to the Defenders of Vladivostock.

Vladivostock, Cable.—"Long life to our great sovereign and to great Russia!" so concludes the commandant of the fortress in a proclamation to the citizens reporting the Emperor's congratulatory messages to Vladivostock. It is reported that on March 6, the inhabitants celebrated the receipt of the message last night with general rejoicing, processions along the streets, bands playing the national anthem, and the firing of the guns of the commandant's residence, and he issued, in the text of the Emperor's message, amidst a storm of cheering.

Black smoke was observed at the east entrance to the harbor at about 5 o'clock p. m., and was thought to be from the enemy's ships, but the smoke gradually disappeared.

China Troops Must Stop it.

Paris Cable says.—It is officially confirmed that the Russian Minister at Peking has made firm representations to the Chinese government concerning the activity of Chinese troops along the Manchurian frontier with a pointed intimation of the defensive measures Russia may be compelled to adopt. The substance of the representations follows: "Russia has taken cognizance of the presence of considerable forces of Chinese troops along the frontier. For the present it is recognized that these forces are independent of the direct authority and control of the Imperial government, which, therefore, is not responsible for their presence. That the fact of their presence called to the attention of the Imperial government and should their continuance on the frontier lead to deprecations and acts of lawlessness necessary to safeguard her interests."

The foregoing is not the literal text, but it is the purport of the terms of the representations. The Chinese troops referred to are those of General Ma and General Yuan-Shih-Kai, the commander-in-chief. The latter is the Viceroy of Chi Li Province and his troops originally were organized by the late Li Hung Chang. Therefore, they are subject to provincial instead of imperial control. It is understood here that Viceroy Alexeff will take with him repressive measures if the deprecations spread to the extent of endangering Russian interests.

Japs Assessed for War.

Salt Lake City, Utah Cable says.—The Japanese in Utah have been asked to contribute \$100,000 toward the Japanese war fund being collected in this country by the Fokugikai (patriotic society), a branch of which is being organized here. According to the Salt Lake City press, the Japanese of Nevada, Wyoming, Montana and Colorado. Letters, it is stated, have been written leaving Japanese of every city in the country, and every State will have an organization of the Fokugikai to collect funds for the home country in its struggle with Russia. Mr. Hashimoto said the \$250,000 already had been raised in San Francisco alone, and that large sums are coming from Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

Criticizes Alexeff.

Paris Cable says.—The Journal publishes an interview sent in by its correspondent at Nice with General Baron Meller Zakhomelsky, commander of the Seventh Army Corps, of Russia, which is stationed in the Crimea. The correspondent expressed surprise at the General's absence from Russia in time of war, whereupon the General declared that the war in the far east had little effect upon the life and duties of a majority of the men in the Russian army, and that Russia had not reduced her forces on the German and Austrian frontiers. He severely criticized the management of the campaign in the far east, and said he thought Viceroy Alexeff would soon ask to be recalled. He said also that no staff had been formed for General Konropatkin, who, he said, was to take over the duties of Viceroy Alexeff. General Zakhomelsky expressed the belief that the war would not last long, and said that General Konropatkin, who was well acquainted with the Japanese, had been opposed to the war, but had foreseen that it was inevitable.

Battle Expected Soon.

A St. Petersburg Cable says — "The only piece of important news up to this hour to-day from the seat of war was the Associated Press despatch from Port Arthur announcing a fresh attack on that place by the Japanese fleet. The despatch contained no details. Another telegram to the Associated Press from Vladivostock has been received, but makes no mention of fighting, and it is assumed that all is quiet there. The reports that the Japanese have entered Manchuria west of the Yalu River, and have reached Feng-Hang-Cheng on the Peking road, which is the Russian line of communication to the Yalu, cannot be confirmed. If the information of some magnitude cannot long be delayed, as the Russians have a heavy force south of the line, between Liao-Yang and Mukden, and they are also occupying strong positions along the Yalu. A Japanese column between them would be in a desperate strait unless it moved by the flank to take the Russians on the Yalu in the rear, and was energetically supported by a forward Japanese movement from Corea.

BRITAIN A GREAT POWER. Her Army Estimates Must Be Framed Accordingly.

London, March 14.—During the discussion of the army estimates in the House of Commons to-night, Premier Balfour said that so long as the army home defenses were maintained in an adequate condition, any invasion of this country by an organized force capable of reducing it to submission was merely a dream. But, no man could blind himself to the fact that the Great Britain a great continental power, and that any great continental power must be taken into account in framing the British army estimates.

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EXPLANATION OF CABINET CRISIS.

Mr. Balfour Talks of the Famous Split.

Colleagues Knew of Chamberlain's Resignation.

Scottish Curlers Had Only One Regret.

London Cable.—Premier Balfour, replying to a question by Mr. Ellis, M. P., gave an explanation regarding the Cabinet split. He said the Government crisis in the matter came about when Mr. Chamberlain made his memorable speech in May last. The Cabinet was divided on the subject of fiscal reform, but it was practically decided among them that the subject was not to be raised, but was to be put on one side till the end of the session. In the beginning of August he circulated among his colleagues his notes on insular free trade. Up to the date of the last Cabinet meeting in August he hoped to keep all his colleagues, but, no compromise being suggested on the fiscal question by the members of the Government, who afterwards retired, he began to abandon hope. His view at the time was that it was contrary to his public duty to leave his position at the head of the Government so long as he retained the confidence of the King and the House. In September he came to the conclusion that some break in the Cabinet was inevitable, and Mr. Chamberlain had arrived at the same view. Under these circumstances the Cabinet meeting of Sept. 11 assembled. Mr. Chamberlain then came to the view clearly at the meeting that he would resign if a colonial preference was omitted. In his letter Mr. Chamberlain expressed the view that the Cabinet reform was not a matter of view clearly at the meeting that he would resign if a colonial preference was omitted. In his letter Mr. Chamberlain expressed the view that the Cabinet reform was not a matter of view clearly at the meeting that he would resign if a colonial preference was omitted.

Would be a Benefit.

All the gossip which reached his ears led him to believe that Lord George Hamilton and Mr. Ritchie had wholly abandoned any hope of remaining members of a Government pledged to fiscal reform. He had even seen the speculation of what might occur when in consequence of a break in the Government, he would resign his place as Premier. He then altered the views previously held, and came to the conclusion that it was not within range of practical politics to have a food tax. No human being denied that a conceivable concession on the part of Canada would not form a part of the conclusion that it was not within range of practical politics to have a food tax. No human being denied that a conceivable concession on the part of Canada would not form a part of the conclusion that it was not within range of practical politics to have a food tax.

Devonshire an Asset.

He sympathized with Mr. Ritchie and Lord George Hamilton, and denied jeering them out of the Cabinet. He was surprised to complain of the course pursued by Lord George Hamilton in stating that he had kept them ignorant of Mr. Chamberlain's retirement. He knew it by writing they knew it by speech. He also complained that Lord George Hamilton had allowed Lord Rosebery to make misstatements regarding the circumstances. Mr. Balfour, referring to the Duke of Devonshire, said he was sorry if a correspondence of an unduly controversial nature had occurred regarding the latter's resignation. Devonshire was one of the assets of our public life, and the country would never forget his great and permanent services.

Protectionist Proposals.

Lord George Hamilton asserted, without denial, that the documents placed before the Cabinet contained proposals for the taxation of food, and he had resigned because he could get no guarantee that protection would not form a part of the Government programme. The document he referred to never had, so far as he knew, been withdrawn. Mr. Ritchie, Lord George Hamilton, Mr. Winston Churchill and other Unionists walked out in order not to vote against the Government, whose majority was 65.

The Curlers' Regret.

Rev. John Kerr, one of the Scottish curlers, who visited Canada in 1903, has published an account of the tour in a book of 800 pages, profusely illustrated and dedicated to Lord Minto. He says the reception could not have been better for royalty. The only fly in the ointment was Rev. Dr. Milligan's denunciation of the party who visited Niagara on Sunday. He says the tour advanced the cause of the empire.

COAL AS CONTRABAND.

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