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VOL. 35.

JAPS CONTINUE TO GAIN GROUND WILL SHORTLY COMMAND PORT A FEU HARBOR

Mukden Dispatch Says There is No Sign of Definite Advance by Oyama's Forces.

Tokio, Nov. 29.—It is reported that an attack against Port Arthur by Japanese light artillery succeeded.

It is estimated that ninety per cent. of the work of the complete occupation of Port Arthur will be finished with this night in possession of the Japanese.

NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES HAVE OCCURRED.

Mukden, Nov. 29.—A Japanese cavalryman, who has been captured by the Russians, declares that Gen. Kuraki is not dead, as has been rumored among the Japanese.

There has been no important change in the situation. Small skirmishes are reported on the eastward, but there is no sign of a definite Japanese advance.

The close proximity of the opposing lines in many places is leading to new and unexpected developments.

that Quelpar is closed to alien residents according to treaty stipulations, and therefore it required the Japanese government to withdraw its troops.

Chinese report that the main Japanese force is located at Shilike, on the railroad ten miles south of Shantung, but that it is impossible to estimate its strength.

RUSSIAN DESTROYER MUST BE REPAIRED.

Brest, France, Nov. 29.—The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Frontely is anchored in the roadstead with a hole in her hull caused by her anchor. She was entering the naval port to repair.

TOGO PREPARING TO MEET ROJESTVENSKI.

Tokio, Nov. 29.—The progress of the second Russian Pacific squadron circles daily growing interest. A correspondent of the Morning Post, discussing possible preparations to meet the squadron, suggests that Japan rely upon the older warships to maintain the blockade of Port Arthur.

THE JAPANESE LOST FOUR THOUSAND MEN.

Tokio, Nov. 29.—According to a Tokyo dispatch, it is rumored that there is an official rumor that the Japanese have lost large numbers of troops on the island of Port Arthur.

This report doubtless goes beyond the facts, but various dispatches indicate the heavy losses of Japanese in the direction of Port Arthur.

the right bank of Shalke river and northward of Sincimpu, fired at it as it was passing, and ceased firing at 11.30.

ADMIALTY PLANS FOR ESQUIMAULT RADICAL POLICY IS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Completed Withdrawal of Troops From Halifax—Local Station May Not Be Reduced.

London, Nov. 29.—The opinion expressed at Esquimault recently that the recall of the Grafton and Flora forehanded a radical change of the policy on the part of the council of defence of the cabinet, is confirmed by the announcement that the government is considering a plan for the strategic distribution of Imperial forces so as to concentrate naval and military strength in a more effective manner.

NO CHANGE IN THE POSITIONS OF ARMIES.

Gen. Oku's headquarters, via Pusan, Nov. 29.—(Delayed in transmission).—The position of the two armies is practically unchanged.

THE RUSSIANS ARE PORTIFYING PUKCHEN.

New York, Nov. 30.—A Herald dispatch dated Wonsan, Nov. 18th, via Shanghai, Nov. 28th, says: "The Korean prefect of Songhin, who maintains friendly relations with the Russians here, asserts that 800 artillerymen with seven heavy guns, passed down for Pukchen early this month. The Russians informed him that an additional force of artillery was on the way for Vladivostok, their intention being to hold Pukchen at all costs."

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TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

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NO. 67.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF INQUIRY

UNITED STATES ASKED TO APPOINT MEMBER

London Papers Regret No Provision is Made for Punishing Those Responsible for Outrage.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, and Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, called separately at the state department today to present on behalf of their respective governments an invitation for the United States to appoint a "high ranking naval officer" as a member of the court of inquiry which will investigate the facts in the Dogger Bank incident.

London, Nov. 28.—Regret is expressed in the London morning newspapers that there is no provision in the Anglo-Russian convention for the punishment of those found responsible for the Dogger Bank incident. The Morning Post declares that Great Britain has created a precedent for permitting foreign navies to fire on British vessels with impunity.

London, Nov. 28.—The foreign office has issued the following English translation of the declaration signed at St. Petersburg by Charles Hardinge, the British ambassador, and Count Lamsdorff, the Russian foreign minister: "His Britannic Majesty's government and the Imperial Russian government, having agreed to enter into an international commission of inquiry assembled conformably to articles 9 to 14 of The Hague convention on July 29th, 1902, for the pacific settlement of international disputes, the task of elucidating by means of an impartial and conscientious investigation the facts of the case connected with the incident which occurred during the night of October 21st-22nd, 1904, in the North Sea (on which occasion the firing of guns on the Russian fleet caused the loss of a boat, as well as damages to other boats of that fleet, and injuries to the crews of some of those boats), the undersigned have duly authorized thereto, have agreed upon the following provisions:

"Article I.—The international commission of inquiry shall be composed of five members (commissioners), of whom two shall be officers of high rank in the British and Imperial Russian navies, respectively. The governments of France and of the United States shall each be requested to select one of their naval officers of high rank as a member of the commission. The fifth member shall be chosen by agreement between the four members above mentioned; in the event of no agreement being arrived at by the four commissioners as to the selection of the fifth member of the commission, his imperial and royal majesty the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary will be invited to select him. Each of the two high contracting parties shall likewise appoint a legal adviser to advise the commissioners, and an agent officially empowered to act in the name of the government.

"Article II.—The commission shall inquire into and report all circumstances relative to the Dogger Bank incident, and particularly on the question as to where the responsibility lies, and the degree of blame attaching to subjects of the two high contracting parties, or to subjects of other countries, in the event of their responsibility being established by the inquiry.

"Article III.—The commission shall settle the details of procedure which it will follow for the purpose of accomplishing the task with which it has been entrusted.

"Article IV.—The two high contracting parties undertake to supply the commission to the utmost of their ability with all the means and facilities necessary in order to enable it to acquire itself thoroughly and appreciate correctly the matters in dispute.

"Article V.—The commission shall assemble in Paris as soon as possible after the signature of this agreement.

"Article VI.—The two high contracting parties undertake each to bear on reciprocal terms the expense of the inquiry made by it previous to the assembly of the commission. The expense incurred by the international commission after the date of its assembly in organizing its staff and conducting the investigation which it will have to make shall be equally shared by the two governments.

"In faith whereof the undersigned have signed the present agreement (declaration) and affixed their seals to it. Done in duplicate at St. Petersburg, November 25th, 1904."

EVERYTHING NOW DEPENDS ON WAR

RUSSIA IN SAESMAN ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Says Constitution is at Present Out of Question—Tribute to Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 28.—One of the most commanding figures and farseeing statesmen of the Empire, whose opinion is of the highest value, but who has declined to permit the use of his name, in conversation with the Associated Press today expressed the distinct conviction that nothing in the nature of a radical change in the existing order of things would result from the Zemstvo congress. It is a firm belief in the most populous nation and vastest Empire in the world, but he has himself in fact favored a liberal policy, and is now too practical minded to be deluded by the factors which threaten the present regime. Still he does not believe that anything like a crisis now confronts the government. His opinion everything depends upon the war.

"The war," the statesman said, "is a big interrogative point for Russia. Her future at home and abroad is involved in the international situation which is very complicated. The action of the Zemstvo representatives is a symptom of the disintegration of the Empire, and the Empire as a whole, and if Canada does nothing, she cannot complain, but as a matter of fact the North Atlantic squadron of today, consisting merely of cruisers without a single battleship, would be useless against any foreign squadron likely to attack Canada."

"The more the American navy grows the more disproportionate our North American squadron becomes. The growing power of Germany compels us to consolidate and economize in naval luxuries. Moreover, powerful flying squadrons of armoured cruisers being organized here, will visit Canadian waters time after time and show the flag, while the admiralty plans provide for battleship squadrons to be in Canadian waters within a week of any development dangerous to the peace of the country."

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