

40TH YEAR. NO. 17135

THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1904.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

CHINA'S NEUTRALITY IS ONLY TEMPORARY; NATION SYMPATHIZES WITH JAPANESE

Chinese Ambassador to Berlin Intimates That His Nation May Form an Active Alliance With Mikado—Crisis at Shanghai Over Refusal of Russian Gunboat to Leave Harbor.

Rumored Repulse of Russians With a Loss of 2,500 Men in Battle Near the Yalu River—Turkey Accused of Offering Russia Permission to Pass Dardanelles.

New York, Feb. 22.—The Chinese minister here, says a cable to the World from Berlin, has intimated that his nation has been entirely foreign to the war, and that the Chinese people will not be forgotten that the war will be fought out in Manchuria, and that the Chinese people will increase as the war progresses.

"Naturally, therefore, the Chinese Government may be expected on any one day to decide that its continued neutrality is neither possible nor desirable.

"Thirty thousand well-drilled Chinese troops are stationed in the province of Chi Li, ready at a moment's notice from Pekin to enter Manchuria. Our nation admires the Japanese and sympathizes decidedly with their efforts."

RUSSIAN REPULSE REPORTED

Loss Battle Near the Yalu 500 Men Being Killed.

London, Monday, Feb. 22.—The cables are still absolutely silent with regard to the progress of war, but there are vague rumors of land fighting. As an instance, the Paris edition of the New York Herald, correspondent at St. Petersburg, talks of a Russian repulse on the Yalu River, with a loss of 2,500 lives. The Morning Post, Chefoo correspondent says he learns news of thousands of Japanese are advancing by forced marches from various parts of Korea on the Yalu, and that severe fighting is expected shortly. These are the only references to actual operations that have reached London.

RUSSIAN LENT BEGINS.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—Carnival week closed on Saturday night, and yesterday all classes of the populace, from the highest to the lowest, began the observance of Lent with even more than the customary vigor, doing penance and praying for the success of the Russian arms. The court will pass the week fasting at the winter palace and immediately afterward the court will remove to Tsarskoe-Selo, south of St. Petersburg, his majesty's favorite abode.

The Novoe Vremya, commenting upon the report of M. de Buzare, who was Russian minister at Seoul, of the fight at Chemulpo, declares that Japan's action there has taken her from the list of civilized powers and predicts a revival of European solidarity against the "wild Asiatic enemy."

RUSSIA LOSES ANOTHER.

Small Cruiser Goes On the Rocks and Is Lost.

Chefoo, Monday, Feb. 22.—The captain of the German steamer Pronto, just arrived from Dalny, says positively that besides the torpedo gunboat Yenisei, accidentally destroyed by one of her own mines, the Russians have just lost another ship by accident on the 12th inst. This was a small cruiser whose name was not learned. In avoiding some mines she ran upon rocks, which she eventually slipped off into deep water and sank. There was no loss of life attached to the casualty.

The Russian authorities insist that there is no truth in the story that a force of one thousand Japanese landed at Pigeon or Dove Bay has been annihilated.

The Pronto was sent from Port Arthur to Dalny for refugees, chiefly Japanese women. While leaving Port Arthur with all lights out she was fired upon by a Russian cruiser. Fifteen shots striking her upper works. It was subsequently explained that she was mistaken for a Japanese torpedo boat. The entrance to Dalny is honeycombed with mines. Nothing was seen on the passage to this port of either the Russian or Japanese fleets.

THE BLACK SEA FLEET.

Turkey May Open the Dardanelles to the Russians.

New York, Feb. 22.—Turkey, according to a cable to the Herald from its correspondent in St. Petersburg, has lent a willing ear to the diplomatic suggestions of Russia that the Black Sea fleet should one day be found in the Mediterranean, Turkey being assured that this once an accomplished fact not one of the powers would have a word to say in objection. If they did, Russia would be answerable.

These terms, it is added, are that Turkey be given a free hand in settling the coming months in the war, and that the Russian fleet be permitted to pass the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, and that the Russian fleet be permitted to pass the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, and that the Russian fleet be permitted to pass the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.

CRISIS AT SHANGHAI.

China Threatens to Drive Out Russian Warship Manjur.

New York, Feb. 22.—Although no one in authority here will say that the Asiatic cruiser squadron is being mobilized at Shanghai, says the Washington correspondent of the Herald, because of the report that a Chinese squadron is going to drive the Russian cruiser Manjur out of the harbor, it is understood this may have something to do with the direction of American naval activity in the Far East. It is believed here by some that the action of China if she demands the Russian cruiser's withdrawal will have to be supported by the powers, most of whom have warships at Shanghai.

It is claimed that other nations are bound to help China maintain her

neutrality if she finds she cannot do so herself.

CZARINA STARTS SEWING.

Starts a Society to Help Soldiers at the Front.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—The Czarina, who takes great personal interest in the work of providing for the sick and wounded of the war, provided today at a special meeting of the Ladies' Patriotic Society, which was attended by several grand duchesses and others of the highest ladies in the land.

During the discussion in regard to utilizing the services unparaphrased offered by the girls and women of Russia for the relief of the wounded, the Czarina proposed to temporarily suspend the studies in the girls' schools in order that the girls might be able to devote the school hours to sewing. The suggestion was applauded, but no definite action was taken.

JAPANESE HANGED.

Had Attempted to Blow Up Bridge on Manchurian Road.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—A dispatch from Harbin, dated Feb. 20, says: The railroad is in working order and the Japanese who attempted to blow up the bridge over the Sungari River have been hanged. Bands of bandits have been observed under Japanese leadership and are being pursued. Almost all of the civilian inhabitants of Harbin have left, and the remainder are being guarded by Russian troops.

The War Situation

An unconfirmed rumor comes from Korea of a battle near the Yalu, in which the Russians were repulsed with a loss of 2,500 men.

It is thought, the dispatch adds, that Japan regards foodstuffs as contraband of war, and that she will undertake to compel the capitulation of Port Arthur by a siege. The battleship of the American Asiatic fleet, has been ordered to Hong Kong, where she will remain until the end of the war. It is regarded as probable that Admiral Evans will have the remainder of the battleship squadron accompany him to Hong Kong.

EDWARD MEETS WITH ACCIDENT

While Inspecting New Cruiser Slips and Slightly Injures His Leg.

New York, Feb. 22.—While King Edward was inspecting the new British battleship, yesterday, says a cable dispatch to the Sun, from Portsmouth, he slipped on a water-tight door and fell, slightly injuring his leg. When he subsequently went to the naval barracks, a gymnast chair was provided to enable him to preside at a dinner party.

A CHINESE DISASTER

Hundreds of Lives Lost by the Bursting of a Dam.

Tien Tsin, Feb. 22.—A telegram from Tien Fu, Shan Tung, says that hundreds of lives have been lost by the bursting of a dam on the Hwang Ho. Several villages were destroyed.

ROYAL SLUMMERS MOBBED

The King of Wurtemberg Gets into Trouble in London's Streets.

London, Feb. 22.—For some reason or other, the King of Wurtemberg and Queen of Wurtemberg, who were among the royal guests invited by King Edward to be present at the wedding of Princess Alice to Prince Alexander of Teck, chose to stay in the hotel of the Grosvenor Hotel for one night before going to Windsor.

LOUBET STAYS AT HOME.

President of France Refuses to Leave Paris.

Paris, Feb. 22.—The President of France, M. Loubet, has refused to leave Paris for the front. He has decided definitely not to go. President Loubet's visit to Italy, but the reason for the postponement of the president's trip has not yet been announced.

Foreign Minister Delcasse informed President Loubet and his colleagues that the Russian army operations will not begin seriously before April, and it is considered impossible that the president should take part in the festivities which will attend his visit, while the ally of France is engaged in a desperate struggle.

WAR NOTES.

The Russian forces in Manchuria are

so far acting entirely on the defensive. Extensive preparations are being made at Dalny, Port Arthur, New Chwang and Liao yang to prevent the unannounced landing of Japanese troops.

A big force of men are at work on the damaged vessels in the Port Arthur harbor, and the Japanese are endeavoring to secure steamers to run the blockade.

The diplomatic body at Pekin was received in audience by the Dowager Empress. In order to avoid a clash between the Japanese and Russian legation guards, their respective commanders have agreed not to allow them leave of absence on identical days.

Advices to the Japanese Government from Pekin say that while at Mukden Viceroy Alexieff asked the Chinese troops to aid in guarding the railroad so as to prevent the interruption of traffic. The Chinese refused the request, and asked for instructions from Pekin. The Chinese Government told them to inform Alexieff that the Russian had insisted that the Chinese were unable to guard the railway in time of peace, surely Russia could not expect them to guard it in time of war.

The Russian Vladivostok squadron was reported to be on the west coast of the island of Sakhalin, attempting to cut the cables. The Japanese navy department here discredits the report, and believes the squadron is still at Vladivostok.

Three hundred Russian scouts reconnoitered yesterday in Wiju and vicinity. They crossed the Yalu river, entered the town and scouted through the surrounding country. They then recrossed the river and joined their main force.

The national Japanese loan has already been twice covered. M. Takahashi, vice-president of the Japanese loan, states that on Feb. 24, on an important mission. Baron Kaneko accompanies him.

A later dispatch from Port Arthur announces that by order of Viceroy Alexieff an irregular volunteer corps is being raised to defend that fortress. The men will be provided with arms, uniforms and the necessary clothing. It is thought, the dispatch adds, that Japan regards foodstuffs as contraband of war, and that she will undertake to compel the capitulation of Port Arthur by a siege.

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restaurants and music halls, and then, to his horror, he lost them in the crowd.

He explored Leicester Square thoroughly, without success; then passed on in a great state of anxiety to Wyndham's Theatre, where a large crowd and several policemen had collected.

In the center of the crowd were their majesties of Wurtemberg, explaining things in broken English to the policemen, while the spectators hurled abusive epithets about "furriners" at the heads of the royal couple. Suddenly it appears, had deliberately pushed into the King and knocked his hat over his royal nose, and that was the beginning of the row. The equestrian plunged into the crowd, whispered to the policemen, and in another moment had bundled his charges into a cab.

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MISSIONARIES SAFE

Mr. and Mrs. McRae and Miss McCullan Arrive at Wansan.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 22.—The state department has received a cable from Korea, stating that Mr. and Mrs. McRae and Miss McCullan, the Canadian Presbyterian missionaries at Ham Heng, have arrived at Wansan in safety.

FIGHT OVER A WIDOW

Unsuccessful Suitor Shoots Woman and Attempts Suicide.

St. Louis, Feb. 22.—F. A. Sigler, a carpenter of Omaha, and Mrs. Julia Smith, a widow of this city, are at the city hospital badly wounded. It is believed that Sigler will die. Sigler came to this city for the avowed purpose of killing Mrs. Smith, whom he charged with trifling with his affections. Ernest Woods, the successful suitor, was present at the house when Sigler called on Mrs. Smith. Sigler, who was armed with a revolver, and then in the presence of her son, Albert, shot Mrs. Smith, who was sick in bed, in the head. He then put a bullet through his own head.

THE BALLOT SCANDAL

Toronto's Investigation Has Been Postponed For a Week.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 22.—The civic investigation was not resumed this morning, pending the argument of the first point in the suit brought by Controller Richard Lane to prohibit further proceedings. Thomas Thompson, brother of Sam, pleaded not guilty to the charges of perjury arising out of the evidence given by him on Saturday. The case was remanded a week.

SCHOONER WRECKED

Seven Men Clinging to Vessel That Is Breaking Up.

New York, Feb. 22.—The schooner wrecked off Belpoit proves to be the Benjamin C. Cromwell, Captain McLean, from Charleston, S. C., bound for Maine. Her home port is Portland, Maine.

One of the crew was rescued from the surf and was taken to the Belpoit life saving station. Seven men can be seen clinging to the wreck. The vessel, which was loaded with yellow pine, is going to pieces.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Washington's birthday was generally observed in this city today. The farewell address of the first president was read in the Senate, the federal and municipal offices were closed and only a few of the business houses were open. There were several patriotic celebrations.

Historic Alexandria, six miles south of here, on the Potomac River, where George Washington was a familiar figure during most of his career, celebrated the day with an elaborate military and civic parade.

WILD SCENES IN CHICAGO'S PIT

Wheat Leaps to \$1 07 a Bushel—Armour Sells Millions, But Can't Meet the Demand.

Chicago, Feb. 22.—Wheat for May delivery on Saturday sold at \$1 07 a bushel, a gain of 4 cents over Friday night's close. The market was extremely active, and the volume of trading was of enormous proportions. The sensational advance was largely due to the anxiety of shorts, who were afraid to maintain open trades over a two days' recess of the board.

WEATHER BULLETIN

TOMORROW—FAIR AND VERY COLD.

London, Monday, Feb. 22. Sun rises, 7:37 a.m. Moon sets, 10:06 a.m. Sun sets, 5:55 p.m. Moon rises, 12:00 a.m.

Comparatively mild weather has prevailed today from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces, while in Manitoba and the Territories it has been extremely cold again, with temperatures much below zero. Rain and snow have fallen in Ontario, but elsewhere the weather has been fair. The outlook for Ontario and Quebec is for a return to wintry temperatures.

FORECASTS.

Monday, Feb. 22—S. a.m.

Today—Western and northwestern Canada—Fair and decidedly cold.

Tuesday—Fair and decidedly cold.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.

Calgary..... -24 -12 Clear

Winnipeg..... -20 -10 Snow

Parry Sound..... -20 -10 Cloudy