

WILL STORM PORT ARTHUR

Japanese Within One Hundred Yards of the Fortress.

THE NEXT ASSAULT.

A despatch from London says: That the main defences at Port Arthur will be carried by the Japanese at the next assault is indicated by a belated despatch from Gen. Nogi's headquarters.

A correspondent declares that the siege preparations are complete and have been of the most thorough character. The rocky hills have been tunneled with the most arduous labor until the Japanese works extend to within 100 yards of the parapets of the forts. Through these tunnels the Japanese can march to the fortifications without losing a man and avoiding the fire which has exterminated their regiments in nearly all the previous assaults.

In the forts now held by the Japanese they have mounted enormous guns in beds of concrete and masonry. The front these forts present to the Russians is even stronger than that which faced the Japanese when they stormed the positions. The siege and naval guns are doing an enormous amount of execution, tearing great gaps in the walls of the Russian forts and sweeping the harbor. It is stated that two of the Russian warships have been sunk, the arsenal and dockyards destroyed and constant fires started in the town.

This despatch is dated Nov. 2 and was delayed in transmission. It throws no light on the recent operations, or on the rumored request for an armistice by Gen. Stoessel. In view of the preparations of the Japanese such a plea seems reasonable. In spite of the oft-repeated declaration of the Russian commander that he intended to hold out as long as a man was left.

SUPPLIES FOR BESIEGED.

A despatch from Tsinchou says: The British steamer Thales has been purchased by Germans and given a German register. She is now loading for Port Arthur. Local shipping houses have received information that the steamers which recently left here with supplies for Vladivostok have arrived there in safety. Several supply ships have reached Port Arthur within the last fortnight.

IS KUROKI DEAD?

A despatch from Moscow says: Nemorivitch Dan-henko, the well-known Russian war correspondent of the Associated Press, telegraphing from Mukden under Sunday's date, says the reports of the death of Gen. Kuroki are confirmed. According to his version, a splinter of shell struck Gen. Kuroki, tearing out a portion of his breast and abdomen. He died Oct. 4 at Liao-Yang and his body was sent to Japan. A rumor is persistently circulated that a kinsman of the Mikado, Siasoanai, literally "Little Third Prince," has been appointed to succeed Gen. Kuroki, but that the actual command of the army has been entrusted to Gen. Nodzu, who is reviewing operations.

JAPANESE DISLODGED.

A despatch from Mukden says: There was a heavy exchange of artillery fire on Thursday at the Russian right centre. The Russian batteries began shelling the Japanese trenches, and the Japanese batteries responded. During the night Russian volunteers dislodged a detachment of Japanese infantry from trenches in front of Lone Tree (Poutoloff) Hill. The Japanese continue to show activity on the left flank, without, however, engaging in any serious movement.

Comfortable dugouts are being built along the Russian lines, and the soldiers seem to think that they will winter where they are. The idea that Field Marshal Oyama contemplates an attempt to take Mukden is not generally entertained. Both sides seem to be content for the present with a suspension of hostilities. Warm clothing is being distributed among the troops.

OUTPOSTS FRATERNIZE.

A despatch from London says: An English correspondent at Mukden says the conviction prevails there that the Japanese reinforcements are larger than reported, and that, consequently, an attack is expected. Sometimes the outposts fraternize and exchange cigarettes and other luxuries.

TARING OF SCOUTS.

A despatch from Mukden says: The positions of the army on both sides remain little changed, though there is continual skirmishing going on with the object of securing minor positions tending to strengthen the respective lines of defence. The Russian scouts are very daring in secretly reconnoitering the whole of the Japanese positions, some even creeping up to the Japanese trenches and lying concealed there all day and returning at night. The Japanese have constructed in many places double and even triple and quadruple lines of trenches, wire entanglements, mines and pits.

A Cossack patrol on Nov. 10 penetrated as far as Santapu, where

they inflicted a blow against a large force of Japanese and then returned rapidly to the Russian main line without loss. A patrol also got in the rear of two Japanese companies moving to attack a Russian position. The Cossacks defeated the Japanese and returned safely to the Russian line.

FROM PORT ARTHUR.

A despatch from London says: There is no authentic news from Port Arthur. A report from Chefoo to the effect that Gen. Nogi refused to grant the armistice asked for by Gen. Stoessel is as unconfirmable as the original rumor that an armistice had been requested. There is nothing to indicate that Gen. Stoessel is weakening in his determination to hold out until the end.

The Chefoo correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that the Japanese are hastening plans to combat the Baltic fleet. All naval officers who are not engaged in active service, and who can possibly be recalled, have been summoned to Japan preparatory to starting for their pre-arranged destinations.

PEACE OFFER REJECTED.

A despatch from London says: Japan, unofficially, has made representations to Russia looking to peace. This action has resulted in failure, and such representations, even privately, are not likely to be repeated by Japan. Although the suggestion of a pacific settlement was made unofficially, it actually had behind it all the weight of an offer by the Japanese Government. It was made direct to Russia. No power acted as an intermediary. The proposition was put forward tentatively and unofficially, so that the Japanese Government would be in a position to deny any report that it was suing for peace.

The failure of these direct negotiations, however, resulted in bringing intervention within a measurable distance. Foreign Secretary Lansdowne's plea for arbitration at the Guildhall banquet is taken here to be a pointed suggestion to the United States and France that the time is approaching when the powers must take some action. It can be definitely stated that Lord Lansdowne made his speech with full knowledge that Japan will not resent a proposition looking to peace from the three powers—the United States, France, and Great Britain.

There is a definite impression here that the initiative will come from President Roosevelt, though the action would be joint.

It is mooted that Lord Lansdowne only spoke so openly because he had good reason to believe that Mr. Roosevelt, if elected, contemplated making an effort to bring the belligerents to discuss terms of peace. Lord Lansdowne's remarks are held by those in his confidence to mean that whatever the United States may do in the matter Great Britain will co-operate, even in the event of France not participating. It is known however, that Ambassador Cambon, who continues his work assiduously to bring about some arrangement, hopes for joint action by the three powers.

RUSSIAN ATTACK REPULSED.

A despatch from Gen. Oku's Headquarters says: A spirited Russian attack on an advance post Tuesday night was repulsed after a half hour of musketry fire. The scouting of positions is progressing. The birthday of King Edward was celebrated by the military attaches. The camp was en fete through the hospitality of Gen. Oku. Prince Nashimoto, Field Marshal Oyama, and the correspondents participated in the celebration, which was succeeded by primitive dances and wrestling matches. Col. Tulloch received the congratulations on behalf of the British.

REFUSE TO JOIN COLORS.

The London Times' Russian correspondents say that the disinclination to join the colors for Manchuria recently noticeable in South Russia, is becoming throughout the country. Competent opinion puts the number of reservists who so far have escaped at 20,000 at least. It has been shrewdly suspected that in spite of Russia's overwhelming strength on paper, she has already been sadly put to it to equip even 150,000 trained soldiers from her European countries for service in Manchuria. Even military men admit that two more European corps will exhaust the Russian stock of effectively trained and properly equipped men.

GRAIN TRAFFIC BLOCKED.

The Russian correspondents of the London Times report extraordinary accumulations of grain in Russia. The block is estimated at 91,186 vans and trucks, containing about a million tons of grain. The grain blocks are bound to assume even greater proportions during the next few weeks, and it is exceedingly doubtful whether the last of the sidings will be cleared without the assistance of the waterways at the

opening of next year's navigation. The losses, many of which have to be borne by the moujiks, or peasants, are most serious.

DISORDERS IN RUSSIA.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says—Disorders on a great scale took place at Kharkoff, South Russia on Thursday. The troops fired volleys into the crowds of students and workmen. Prince Mirsky, Secretary of the Interior, started for Kharkoff on Friday. The Governor of Mohileff, where there was a massacre in October last year, in which 300 Jews are said to have lost their lives, has been dismissed. Last month there were more or less serious riots throughout the province in connection with the mobilization of army reserves.

ROBBED THE CITIZENS.

A despatch from Vitebsk, Russia, says—During reserve men riots here on Thursday the men at one time got the better of the police and Cossacks, and until reinforcements arrived held high carnival in the city, pillaging shops, especially where liquor was sold, and even robbing pedestrians in the streets of their valuables. Order was finally restored, however, without sacrifice of life. The Governor has been superseded for failure to preserve order.

During disturbances in the City of Mohileff on Oct. 23 and 24 over 120 Jews were injured.

JAPS DIVERTING RIVER.

A despatch from Huanian (10 miles south of Mukden), says—The weather on Thursday was warm, with slight rain. Along the 80 miles constituting the front of the Russian army everything was quiet, except for occasional skirmishes and artillery duels on the centre and left, where gunners fire occasionally for the sake of getting practice, so as to have the range should the Japanese take the offensive. Sometimes they indulge in fusillades. When the Japanese jocularly display a white disc, indicating a miss, the Russian riflemen reply by raising a shirt on a bayonet. The Japanese are industriously continuing work under the cover of darkness, digging immense ditches into which to deflect the water of the Sha River.

AN AWFUL PICTURE.

A London Daily Telegraph correspondent sends a harrowing picture of the conditions within Port Arthur. He says that vast numbers of sick and dying soldiers, maimed, mutilated and incapacitated for further service, are lying helpless in the inner forts, the straitened circumstances of the garrison making it impossible to give them care and attention. The correspondent suggests that an effort be made to embark them on neutral ships and transfer them under the Red Cross to Chefoo and Shanghai. He offers to take in a steamer himself for this purpose whenever the conditions allow.

THE CRY FOR PEACE.

The Odessa correspondent of the London Standard says that the cry for peace is becoming most profound from all classes in Southern and South-Western Russia. The students at the Universities of Odessa, Kiev, and Kharkoff have sent a petition to the Government deploring the useless sacrifice of life, and praying that it conclude peace.

RUSSIA OFFERS REWARD.

A despatch to the London Standard from St. Petersburg says that Russia has decided to give handsome rewards to anybody furnishing information of the presence of suspicious vessels in the North Sea during the passage of the Baltic fleet or other facts bearing on the Dogger Bank affair.

BRITISH CROP CENSUS.

Less Land is Under Wheat Than Ever Before.

A despatch from London says: The acreage and live stock returns, giving the complete statistics for 1904, which have just been issued by the Board of Agriculture, give some interesting particulars of the state of the farming industry in the country. There is a decline of 25,969 acres in the total area under crops and grass, as compared with last year, but the decrease is mainly attributed to the demand for land for railway and building purposes.

The decrease is entirely in arable land, which, including fallow, is 189,530 acres less than last year. On the other hand, there is an increase in permanent pasture of 163,561 acres.

Of the principal crops wheat, barley, and rye show a decline—in fact, the 1,375,284 acres under wheat is the smallest area ever recorded.

Oats and roots show an increase, and there are 5,903 acres more given up to potato-growing than there were in 1903.

The acreage under small fruit shows a continual tendency to increase, and this year's return of 77,947 acres is the largest ever recorded.

The orchards of the country have increased by 3,525 acres.

Owing to the lack of officers and enlisted men in the United States navy to meet the actual needs of the service, the Navy Department has ordered at least three warships out of commission.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese, and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

Toronto, Nov. 15.—Wheat.—No. 2 white and red Winter at \$1.03 to \$1.04 outside. No. 2 goose nominal at 89 to 90c east, and No. 2 Spring at 95c east. Manitoba, wheat is firmer, No. 1 Northern sold at \$1.03, No. 2 Northern at 99c, and No. 3 Northern at 95c. Georgian Bay ports. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats.—No. 2 white is quoted at 31½ to 32c low freights, and 31 to 31½ north and west; No. 1 white is steady at 32½c east.

Barley.—No. 2 quoted at 45 to 46c middle freights. No. 3 extra, 43c, and No. 3 at 41c middle freights.

Peas.—The market is fair, with prices firm at 65c outside.

Corn.—No. 3 American yellow quoted at 64½c on track, Toronto, and No. 3 mixed at 63c. Canadian corn is nominal at 53 to 55c west.

Rye.—Offerings are small and prices firm at 74 to 75c outside.

Buckwheat.—The market is nominal at 53 to 54c at outside points.

Flour.—Ninety per cent. patents are quoted at \$4.35 to \$4.40 in buyers' sacks east or west. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade, in bbls. \$4.50 to \$4.85. Manitoba flours unchanged. No. 1 patents, \$5.70; No. 2 patents, \$5.40, and strong bakers', \$5.30 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed.—At outside points bran is quoted at \$14.50 to \$15, and shorts, at \$17.50 to \$18. Manitoba bran in sacks, \$19, and shorts at \$21.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Beans.—Prime beans are quoted at \$1.35 to \$1.40, and hand-picked at \$1.45 to \$1.50.

Cranberries.—The market is steady at \$8 per barrel.

Hops.—The market is unchanged at 30 to 35c, according to quality.

Honey.—The market is quiet at 7½ to 8c per lb. Comb honey, \$1.25 to \$2 per dozen.

Hay.—Car lots are quoted at \$8 to \$8.50 on track, Toronto, the latter for No. 1 timothy.

Straw.—Car lots are quoted at \$5.50 to \$6 on track, Toronto.

Potatoes.—The market is a little firmer, with car lots of Ontario stock at 65 to 70c on track. Small lots, 75 to 90c per bag.

Poultry.—Spring chickens, 8 to 9c per lb.; yearlings, 6 to 7c per lb.; ducks, 8 to 9c per lb.; geese, 9c per lb.; turkeys, 12c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter.—We quote—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 17 to 18c; ordinary to choice large rolls, 15 to 17c; low to medium grades, 13 to 14c; creamery prints, 20 to 21c; solids, 19 to 19½c. Eggs.—Case lots of fresh are selling at 21 to 22c per dozen, and pickled at 19 to 20c.

Cheese.—The market is strong at unchanged prices, with quotations from 10 to 10½c, the latter for twins.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Car lots of general run quoted at \$6 to \$6.50. Cured meats are in good demand at unchanged prices. We quote—Bacon, long clear, 8½ to 9c per lb., in case lots; mess pork, \$15 to \$15.50; do., short cut, \$18.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 13 to 13½c; do., heavy, 12c; rolls, 9½ to 10c; shoulders, 9 to 9½c; backs, 14½ to 15c; breakfast bacon, 12½ to 13c.

Lard—Tierces, 8c; tubs, 8½c; pails, 8½c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Nov. 15.—Grain—Oats, 39c for No. 2 in store; No. 3, 38c; American yellow, No. 2, 60c; No. 3, 58½c; white, No. 2, 58½ to 59c; buckwheat, 58½c. Flour—Manitoba patents, \$5.80, and strong bakers', \$5.50; high Ontario blended patents, \$5.75 to \$5.85, in wood; choice 90 per cent. patents, \$5.50 to \$5.60, in wood, and 25c per barrel less in shippers' new bags; straight rollers, \$2.45 to \$2.55, and 25 to 30c extra in wood. Rolled oats—\$2.27½ per bag, \$4.75 in barrels; Feed—Ontario bran, in bulk, \$17 to \$18; shorts, \$19 to \$20; Manitoba bran, in bags, \$18 to \$19; shorts, \$21. Beans—Choice primes, \$1.40 to \$1.45 per bushel, \$1.35 to \$1.37½ in car lots. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, \$16.50 to \$17.50; light short cut, \$16.50 to \$17; American clear fat backs, \$20; compound lard, 6½ to 7c; Canadian lard, 6½ to 7½c; kettle rendered, 8½ to 9½c; hams, 12 to 13c; bacon, 12 to 13c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, \$7.50; heavy fat hogs, \$4.50; mixed lots, \$5; select, \$5.25, off cars. Cheese—Ontario Fall white, 10 to 10½c; colored, 10½ to 10½c; Quebec, 9½ to 9½c. Butter—Finest grades, 19½ to 20c; ordinary, 18 to 19c; and Western dairy, 15 to 15½c. Eggs—Select new laid, 21c; straight gathered, candled, 20c; No. 2, 14 to 15c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 15.—Wheat—Dec., \$1.14½; May, \$1.15½ to \$1.15½; Sept., 95½c; No. 1 hard, \$1.20; No. 1 Northern, \$1.16½; No. 2 Northern, \$1.11½. Flour—First pa-

tents, \$6.10 to \$6.20; second patents, \$5.95 to \$6.05; first clears, \$4 to \$4.10; second clears, \$2.75 to \$2.85. Bran—Not given. Buffalo, Nov. 15.—Flour—Firm. Wheat—Spring, trading light; No. 1 Northern quoted \$1.22½; Winter, dull; No. 2 red, \$1.21½. Corn—Nominal. Oats—Dull; No. 2 white, 32½c; No. 2 mixed, 32½c. Barley—c.i.f. Western quoted, 45 to 58c. Canal freights—dull.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Nov. 15.—The demand for good butchers' continues active, and there is a constant complaint among the buyers that there are not enough of the right quality coming forward. At the same time the slight improvement in the average of the quality offering was maintained to-day, and besides a good number of cattle of fair average quality, there were a few odd cattle to be picked out of loads, which were of extra choice quality. One heifer of this class sold at \$4.65, and several loads were sold at \$4.30 to \$4.35, containing good choice heifers, which if picked out and sold separately would have been worth \$4.50. But when all the good cattle were sold there was still left a large run of inferior cattle, in some cases very inferior. Trade for these was decidedly slow and draggy, while prices were correspondingly low, ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Export cattle of the right class are steady at \$4.60 to \$4.75 for choice. There were not many of this class offering, but several loads of fair to good heavy cattle sold at \$4.30 to \$4.55. Prices are down again in the Old Country, a cable reaching the market this morning quoting Canadian at 5½d.

Stockers—There is some enquiry for good stockers, but the common rough cattle are not wanted. There was also a little enquiry for a few feeders, but the requirements of this trade are now about filled, and only a few are wanted to complete the season's bill.

Sheep and lambs—Everything was sold, with trade generally good and the prospects steady. Lambs are firm at \$4 to \$4.60; sheep steady, culls and bucks dull.

Hogs—The market is weak, and prospects are for still lower prices. To-day's quotations were for selects, \$4.80; lights and fats, \$4.60.

TO FIX AMOUNT OF BLAME

Text of Agreement Between Britain and Russia.

A London despatch says—The text of the agreement between Russia and Great Britain for the formation of an international commission to enquire into the North Sea affair is published.

The commission is to consist of five members, two of them to be officers of high rank in the navies of Great Britain and Russia respectively. France and the United States are to be requested to select each one commissioner and the fifth to be selected by agreement between the four before mentioned. If they do not agree, the choice of the fifth is to be entrusted to a reigning monarch.

By agreement of both sides the commission will enquire and report upon all the circumstances of the case, and particularly as to where the responsibility lies, and the degree of blame that attaches to those upon whom the responsibility is found to rest.

BRIDE FOR KING ALFONSO.

Betrothal to Daughter of Duke of Connaught.

A Madrid despatch says—The betrothal of King Alfonso to Princess Victoria Patricia, daughter of the Duke of Connaught, is believed to be imminent. The Duke was timed to visit here with his daughter, but the motor accident in Scotland delayed them. A Spanish notable, it is said, has been sent to London for photographs of the Princess. Princess Victoria is about the same age as the youthful monarch.

FRUIT TREES AND MICE.

Fruit Division at Ottawa Warns Growers.

An Ottawa despatch says: The fruit division, Ottawa issues the following warning:

"Last winter thousands of fruit trees were girdled and killed by mice, and the same thing will doubtless happen again the coming winter unless orchard-keepers take precaution to prevent it."

The fruit division also points out that the plague of mice is largely due to the common practice of destroying every owl and hawk that can possibly be shot or trapped.

ATLIN GOLD FIELDS.

The Output This Year Estimated at \$600,000.

A Victoria, B.C., despatch says—The gold output of the Atlin district this summer is estimated to be \$100,000 in excess of that of the previous year. It amounts to about \$600,000. This is according to L. W. Sageman of the White-Pass & Yukon Railway Company, who is associated with J. Lipscombe in the management of the Atlin office of that company. They arrived from the north on Tuesday on the steamer Humbolt.