

THE MARKET REPORT

WHEAT MARKET FIRMER THE PAST WEEK

A Decline in World's Shipments—Local Wheat Market Steady—Oats Higher and Hay Lower—Quotations on Produce and Live Stock.
(Furnished by Thompson, Sons & Co.)

WHEAT—The wheat markets have shown rather more firmness the past week, although not enough to cause them to break into activity. The situation to our mind is gradually becoming stronger, but the development is neither fast enough nor clear enough for general recognition, and indeed, there are many competent and interested judges who either do not look for much advance in prices during the coming months, or at least feel very doubtful of it. It is well that all traders do not take the same view of the market prospect, as thus a healthier state of the market is induced. For some weeks back the difference between the European and American situation has not shown so prominently as it did previously, but it is still as distinct as ever, and may become more marked during the latter half of the crop year. Although the exports from North America to Europe since July 1 are about 50,000,000 bushels less than for the same period a year ago, and the primary receipts in the States in the same time are slightly larger than last year, the visible supply shows an increase of only 4,000,000 bushels over a year ago, and the bulk of this is in large stocks at Port William. The primary receipts are now running daily much smaller than last year, and under the stress of winter weather are expected to become even smaller, so that it may not be long before the visible supply begins to decrease, and a sharp decrease in it would result in a sharp increase in prices. Last season the visible supply continued to show weekly increases up to the end of January. We have again to note a decline in the world's shipments last week, causing a decrease of 2,840,000 bushels on ocean passage, and the world's visible supply also shows a substantial decrease. Much interest is centred in the progress of the Argentine crop. Reports from there during the past week have been meagre and conflicting, but as we have stated in previous articles, we consider the weather in that country has not been favorable for the making of a large wheat crop, but it will be several weeks yet before definite estimates can be made, for the crop is backward and the harvest late. Harvest in Australia is also later this year. Crops in Europe continue to be favorably reported with few exceptions. The winter wheat in the States is now protected by a good snow covering which will provide shelter from severe cold, and in due time moisture to some extent. The crop in general, however, has not had a good start, owing to excessively dry weather. The visible supply increased 1,477,000 bushels last week against an increase of 248,000 bushels the previous week, and an increase of 163,000 bushels last year. The world's shipments were 8,840,000 bushels against 9,288,000 bushels the previous week, and 10,498,000 bushels last year. The world's visible supply, according to Bradstreet's, decreased 1,805,000 bushels against a decrease of 2,371,000 bushels the previous week, and a decrease of 702,000 bushels last year.

During the new year, when we look at the option market we do not think that the feeling of confidence is so striking in wheat for future delivery. May wheat holds around the dollar and whenever any strength appears there is plenty of May wheat on offer. Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest is now fairly in the grip of winter, and within the last fortnight farmers' deliveries have completely fallen off. Since about the beginning of October, when we had the unusual spell of steady mild weather (for the time of year), free from rain or storm, permitting all sorts of outdoor work to proceed without the slightest interruption. We have not for years had such a favorable season for threshing and hauling the grain to the railway depots, and farmers have taken full advantage of it. The consequence is that a larger percentage of the wheat crop is out of farmers' hands than in any previous year at this date. This does not mean that farmers have sold every bushel they have hauled out, for they hold a good deal of it in country elevators and at the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur. But it is out of their hands, and figures in estimates of available stocks, instead of being hidden back in farmers' granaries. The same kind of weather has enabled our railways to carry eastward a larger proportion of our crop than ever before up to this date. The railways have been also greatly aided in doing this by the increased rolling stock they now have, compared to the last year or two. This expeditious and comparatively large movement is a deceiving circumstance as to the size of our crop to those at a distance from local observation. Our inspections have, week after week, shown large increase in movement as compared to last year, and it is natural that this be taken to mean a crop as large as the extreme estimates put it, but the sequel will now begin to show in greatly decreased movement during the next four months. Last year the movement during the winter months was much less than the year before, but this year further decrease will appear, for we cannot ship the same bushel of wheat eastward twice, and what has gone leaves so much less

to go. Current prices for Manitoba wheat in the Winnipeg market are as follows: 1 Northern, 95½¢; 2 Northern, 92½¢; 3 Northern, 84¢; No. 4 extra, 75½¢; No. 4 wheat, 73½¢; No. 5 wheat, 62½¢; feed wheat, 53½¢; No. 2 feed, 51¢, spot or December delivery. On the option market closing prices today were: December, 95½¢; May, \$1.01½; July, \$1.01½. All prices are on basis of in store Port William or Port Arthur.

Produce and Live Stock

(Culled from the Commercial) Winnipeg, Dec. 24.
Oats are about 1c per bushel easier. The market is dull, although it is expected that there will be some increase in activity now that gangs are getting out to the bush. As a result of the continued weakness of oats and conditions in outside markets, chops are easier, millfeed following suit. The slump in chops is \$2 per ton all round, making oat chop \$22. Both bran and shorts are \$1 lower, selling at \$14 to \$16 respectively. Receipts of hay have been very heavy, and as a result the market has been overdone. Baled stock is 50c per ton lower, while the drop in prices of loose hay, farmers' loads, was \$2 to \$1 per ton, quotations being \$6.50 to \$7 and \$5 to \$7 respectively.

Quotations
Millfeed—Bran, \$14 per ton in bulk, delivered to the trade; shorts, \$16 per ton.
Ground Feed—Oat chop, \$22 per ton, delivered to the trade; barley chop, \$18; mixed barley and oats, \$20; oil cake, \$27 per ton.

Oats—No. 2 white, 30c; No. 3, 28c; feed grades, 27c per bushel, in carlots on track, Winnipeg.
Barley—No. 3 barley, 35c per bushel; No. 4, 33c; feed grade, 30c on track, Winnipeg.

Flaxseed—95c per bushel, Fort William basis.
Speltz—About the same as barley.

Hay—Baled hay, new, in carlots on track, \$6.50 to \$7; loose hay, farmers' loads, \$5 to \$7.

Vegetables—Potatoes are unchanged. Beets, however, have advanced 5c per bushel, selling now at 75c. The receipt of some large celery has increased the range in price by 15c, quotations now being 40c to 75c per dozen.

We quote: Potatoes, farmers' loads, 70c per bushel; cabbage, \$30 per ton; Swede turnips, 25c per bushel; parsley, 40c per dozen; onions, 3c per lb.; carrots, 50c per bushel; parsnips, 2c per lb.; beets, 70c per bushel; celery, 40c to 75c per dozen; lettuce, 40c per dozen; pumpkins, 2c per lb.; sauerkraut, 3 to 3½c per lb.

Dressed Meats—Business has been very good throughout the week, but as butchers will be pretty well stocked up a lull is expected. Some extra quality beef ranges as high as 6¼c, but, on the other hand, country dressed in the open market is selling down to 4¼c. Beef, 4¼c to 6¼c per lb. for city dressed; ½c less for country; veal, 8c for choicest weights; mutton, 7½ to 8c; spring lambs, 9c to 10c per lb.; hogs, 7¼c delivered to the trade here; country dressed, 6¼c to 6½c.

Poultry—Receipts of local stock are practically nil. Considerable quantities of imported poultry are on the market. Jobbing prices are: Turkeys 18c per lb.; spring chickens, 15c per lb.; fowl, 12½c per lb.; ducks, 15c per lb.; geese, 14c per lb.

Cheese—The market is steady. The demand is fair. Local jobbing prices are: Ontario, 11½c per lb.; Manitoba, 11c per lb.; Twins, 11½c to 12c.

Butter—There is not much offering rather quiet. Local jobbing prices are 25c per lb. for solids, and 23 to 30c per lb. for bricks.

Butter—There is not much offering and some complaint of scarcity is heard. We quote prices paid by jobbers at Winnipeg as follows: No. 1, 16c; No. 2, 10c to 14c; pound bricks, 18½ to 19c. Price of round lots, Winnipeg, is 12½c to 13c, and from 1c to 2c more for special selected shipments by express.

Eggs—Demand fair, prices steady. We quote for imported stock on a jobbing basis: fresh, 26c; glycerined, 24c to 25c per dozen.

Hides—Although Chicago is easier, local quotations except for frozen stock are unaltered. Frozen hides are, however, ½c to ¾c lower. We quote: Abattoir hides, 7¼c for No. 1's; 6¼c for No. 2's; country cured butchers at 6¼ to 7c for No. 1 grade; frozen butchers, 6 to 6½c; sheepskins, 40c to 70c.

Tallow—Quotations are steady, but the market is weak. No. 1 tallow is worth 3¼c to 3½c per lb., delivered at Winnipeg; No. 2, 2¾c.

Seneca Root—There is little moving; country stocks are considered to be pretty well cleaned up. Quotations are practically steady. Clean, dry root is worth 55c to 57c nominally per pound, delivered Winnipeg.

Live Stock
Cattle—Prices are steady. The holiday business is reported to have been exceptionally good. The demand will probably ease off and things be quieter for a week or so. We quote: \$2.75 off cars here for butchers' down to \$2.25 for inferior grades.

Sheep—The market is about steady at last week's advance. We quote: \$3.75 per cwt., Winnipeg.

Hogs—The market is about steady at last week's decline. We quote: 5c per lb., selected weights, Winnipeg.

Market Gardeners' Exchange

The Market Gardeners' Exchange, Ltd., has been granted letters patent of incorporation by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The object of this organization is to buy, sell and deal in goods, wares and merchandise including vegetables, fruits, meats, butter, eggs, cheese, grain, hides, wool and furs and all products of agriculture, forest, lake and stream, etc. The promoters of the exchange are: Wm. A. Farmer, Kildonan; James Barrett, Winnipeg; John Riddell, Winnipeg; James C. Wilson, St. Charles; Wm. N. Tomlin, Kildonan, all well known market gardeners. The headquarters of the exchange will be in Winnipeg. The capital stock is stated to be \$20,000.

CANADIAN NEWS

HUDSON BAY ROUTE TO SAVE THOUSAND MILES.

Manitoba Appointments—Mother Sees Children Burning—Broken Axle Sends Three to Death—Other Interesting Items.

Application will be made at the next session of the Dominion Parliament by the Canadian Northern Railway Company for an act extending the time for the construction of the company's uncompleted lines of railways and authorizing the company to acquire lease or running power over the lines of the Great Northern railway of Canada, and the Chatauguay & Northern Railway company, and the Ironstone-Bancroft & Ottawa Railway company and the Quebec, New Brunswick & Nova Scotia Railway company, or any of them, or to purchase such lines or any of them or to amalgamate with the said companies or any of them.

Also authorizing the company to construct the following lines:

1. From Regina northwesterly and westerly to a point on the Red Deer river in the district of Alberta, with a branch line west of the Saskatchewan river and running northerly to a point in township 45 of range 4, west of the third meridian, in or near Carleton, on the North Saskatchewan river.
2. From Regina northerly to or near Humboldt, thence northeasterly down the valley of Carrot river to a point at or near the Pass Mission on the Saskatchewan.
3. From a point on the main line of the Canadian Northern railway between Humboldt and South Saskatchewan river, northeasterly to a point at or near the crossing of the South Saskatchewan river by the Prince Albert branch of the Canadian Northern railway.
4. From a point on the main line of the Canadian Northern railway west of Battleford into Battleford.

Manitoba Appointments

His honor the lieutenant-governor-in-council has been pleased to make the following appointments in Manitoba, as announced in the Manitoba Gazette:

To be a commissioner outside the province for taking affidavits for use in the courts therein: Thos. Skewes-Cox, of London, England.

To be a game guardian in and for the province: Thomas Bates of Arden.

To be a conveyancer in and for the province: Leonard H. Ashby of Emerson.

To be an issuer of marriage licenses in and for the province: M. A. Boyd, of Lyleton.

The resignation of Alex. McRae of Lyleton as an issuer of marriage licenses, has been accepted.

To be a turnkey in the gaol of the Central Judicial district: Charles Gordon of Portage la Prairie.

To be a justice of the peace in and for the province: Edwin Sydney Woodwiss of Binscarth.

To be commissioners for taking affidavits for use in the courts of the province: Joseph Robert Duke of Virden, Henry E. R. Rogers of Winnipeg, John Thry of Treeshbank, Robert Musgrove of Boissevain, Archibald Campbell of Dunrea, Leonard H. Ashby of Emerson, Frederic John Irwin of Winnipeg, Edward James of Winnipeg, Robert Charles Birkett of Winnipeg, Philip Locke of Winnipeg.

To be chief license inspector for the province: William Arthur Lawson McKay, resigned.

Hudson Bay Route to Save Thousand Miles

A dispatch from Ottawa says: From Fort Churchill on the Hudson Bay to Liverpool, it is 1,000 miles shorter than from Quebec to Liverpool. From Regina to Fort Churchill it is 843 miles. From Regina to Liverpool by way of Quebec is 4,740 miles. The navigation of the Hudson straits is perfectly safe and open from July 1 to November 1, a period of four months. The carrying of grain at 15 cents a bushel on the estimate of one-half cent a mile for a crop of sixty millions would mean a saving of \$9,000,000 to the farmers of the Canadian West. On these statements Commander A. P. Low of the Government steamer Neptune, made an investigation for the Canadian club of Ottawa for the utilization of the Hudson Bay route to Great Britain for the western trade. Low gave a list of the distances to Liverpool and declared the navigability of Hudson Bay and straits were quite feasible and made a plea for the establishment of a rail and steamship route in the interests of the West. He said that for a few years the insurance tax would be heavy until the safety of the route was established, but he had no doubt but it would prove as feasible and as safe as the St. Lawrence route.

U. S. Millers Pleased

It is stated Minneapolis millers regard the recent ruling as to the milling of Canadian wheat in the United States with favor. It is explained that Canadian wheat in the past passed through the United States in bond and a mill receiving Manitoba wheat could not handle any other. Under the new arrangement Canadian wheat can be milled in Minneapolis without restriction of any kind, except that the Minneapolis miller will be compelled to show an agreement between the amount of Canadian wheat imported and the amount of flour and offal exported.

Cutting Prices of Binder Twine

A dispatch from Ottawa says that the Canadian binder twine manufacturers have made representations that the International Harvester company of the United States is trying to put them out of business. The International is the largest concern in the twine business. It regulates the prices, and the list issue for the coming season shows heavy cutting in all grades of twine. It is believed

that the cut is aimed chiefly at the independent twine makers of the United States, and it will only hit the Canadian manufacturers incidentally. Last year the Canadian binder twine manufacturers were given a bonus of half a cent a pound as an offset to the Philippine export duty of a half-cent on Manila charged against all countries but the United States. This placed the Canadians on an equal footing with the United States manufacturers. The Canadian manufacturers are making the reduced price in the States the excuse for further protection.

Mother Looks at Children Burning

On Friday morning the farmhouse of Mr. Lafreniere, situated a short distance from Callander, Ont., was totally destroyed by fire, with all the contents, and the four children of the family, the eldest being about 6 years of age, perished in the flames. The mother of the children had temporarily left the little ones alone while she went to deliver some milk to a nearby neighbor, but she noticed flames issuing from her house and she immediately started for home with all speed, hoping to be in time to rescue the children, but the flames had already enveloped the house, and the lives of the children were past saving.

Under Sentence For Murder

The Justice Department at Ottawa is now considering the cases of five men under sentence of death. The cases are: Cammach of Woodstock, N. B., sentenced to be hanged January 12; John Kay of New Westminster, a 15-year-old boy, sentenced to be hanged January 13; John Bell of Greenwood, B.C., sentenced to be executed January 13; Antonio Jacouli of Montreal, to be hanged January 20, and Fouquet of Sherbrooke, to be executed January 25.

Increased Immigration

There is a net increase of 3,893 in the immigrant arrivals in Canada for the five months ending November 30, as compared with the same period of 1903. The arrivals from the United States were 16,610, and from Europe through ocean ports 34,318. For the same period of last year the immigrant arrivals from the United States were 17,871, and from Europe through ocean ports 28,615.

Broken Axle Sends Three to Death

Daniel Dunham of Stromness, Ont., was driving down the Welland canal feeder to his home on Sunday, and with him were his wife and two children, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Auger. When a mile from Dunham the axle of the wagon broke, throwing the occupants into the canal. Mr. Auger and Dunham's two children were drowned.

Going to Winnipeg

John J. Johnson, chief clerk in the office of Charles Graves at Toronto, Canadian representative for the Great Northwest, has been promoted to the position of contracting freight agent for the company at Winnipeg.

Present For Hospital

Robert Meighen of the Lake of the Woods Milling company has donated a thousand dollars as a Christmas gift to the Winnipeg hospital.

The Rev. Howard H. Roach died at St. John, N.B., on Monday.

Earl Grey will receive the degree of LL.D. from McGill University, Montreal, on January 28.

George Reid, employed in Lawrence's planing mill at Maple Creek, lost three fingers while at work.

Alfred Daniel Nelson, of the fancy goods firm of R. A. Nelson & Sons, Montreal, died at East Orange, N. J., on Monday.

J. Melvin Bartlett was sentenced at Winnipeg to one year in jail for misappropriating funds in connection with the issuing of marriage licenses.

The drying house of the Acadia Powder Works at Waverley, ten miles from Halifax, N.S., exploded on Monday. The report was heard ten miles away. No one was injured. The loss is \$20,000.

Fire broke out Tuesday evening in the chapel of Rideau Hall, Ottawa, between the floors. The brigade was called out but the flames were extinguished with slight loss. Earl Grey complimented the fire chief on the excellent work of the brigade.

A Montreal dispatch says that the Rev. W. T. King, who had been suffering from typhoid fever, succumbed Monday afternoon, and by his death the Anglican church in Valleyfield, Que., has lost a zealous and able clergyman.

Some two thousand hungry and destitute people were made happy by the Winnipeg officers of the Salvation Army Christmas afternoon, who, following their usual custom, gave away Christmas dinners to all whom they considered deserving.

Norman Montzambert, son of Dr. Montzambert, director-general of the Dominion Health Department at Ottawa, passed away at the Winnipeg General hospital at noon on Wednesday. His parents and sister had only arrived in Winnipeg from Ottawa the day before the young man died.

TYPEWRITER WILL NOW SEND MESSAGES

A telegraph instrument fitted to an ordinary typewriter has been put in use by the Western Union Telegraph company, by which any one familiar with the use of a writing machine may not only transmit a message but insure its printed receipt at the other end of the wire. In other words, in the act of writing out a message at the transmitting end, the operator will tick the message off on the wires and through direct contact with a similar machine at the receiving end, bring about the printing of the message as fast as it is ticked off. Dr. J. C. Barwood, assistant general manager of the Western Union company, and its chief electrician, is the inventor of this wonderful machine, which is already in successful operation between Buffalo and New York.

OLD WORLD NEWS

HEAVY FOG DISASTROUS TO TRADE IN LONDON.

Canadian Cotton Combine — Quiet Christmas Day—Dockyard Reforms —Colonial Conference — Admiral Beresford For Mediterranean — Other Items.

The meeting of the Irish parliamentary party to discuss the distress in the West of Ireland and consider means to "force the government to provide for the immediate necessities of the case and put the Land act in operation in Connaught and other poor districts," was held at Dublin a few days ago, under the presidency of John Redmond. A resolution was passed condemning the government as responsible for the existing distress in Ireland, demanding that immediate steps be taken to relieve the critical conditions, and also demanding that powers be given for the distribution of land in the poor districts. The local government board, however, to some degree forestalled the meeting by taking steps which, it is considered, will be effective in relieving the tenants who are affected by the failure of the potato crop.

Sculptor Is a Vegetarian

A dispatch from Paris says that the famous sculptor, Prince Troubetzkoi, is an inveterate vegetarian, who does not even drink milk or eat eggs. Milk to him is "a theft from the calves" and eggs "unborn chickens." He thunders against steaks and cutlets as if all carnivorous people were idiots or criminals. He loves animals and sleeps in his studio together with a bear, nine dogs, two wolves and a rabbit, which he has all trained to become vegetarians like himself. For nine years he has touched no meat and lives on vegetables cooked in oil, salad, dry bread and fruit, and says that he has grown as strong as a bear on this diet, which his magnificent physique does not belie.

Dockyard Reforms

The London Morning Standard says the dockyard reforms contemplated by the admiralty are to embrace curtailment of expenditure on smaller naval stations abroad. The redistribution of fleets constitutes Gibraltar, Malta and Hong Kong, the chief bases away from home waters. The usefulness of some minor establishments is thus greatly impaired. For example the South Atlantic fleet is abolished, and the particular service squadron which is to cruise the North American waters will have a home base at Devonport. The necessity of maintaining dockyards at Halifax and Jamaica is considerably lessened. Esquimaux will also be reduced, since Hong Kong will suffice for all of the needs of warships in the Pacific.

Admiral Beresford For Mediterranean

Lord Charles Beresford has been appointed to the command of the Mediterranean fleet in succession to Admiral Sir Compton Dunsford, who flies his flag on the Bulwark battleship. Vice-Admiral Beresford's appointment becomes effective on May 1, soon after his relinquishing the command of the Channel fleet, and will prove very popular among the officers and men of the Mediterranean fleet, where Lord Beresford served for some time as second-in-command to Admiral Sir John Fisher.

Colonial Conference

Colonial Secretary Lyttelton, speaking at Glasgow, and referring to the proposed colonial conference, said nothing was suggested to be imposed upon the colonies contrary to their will. All the proposals of the Government were that they should sit in debate and freely discuss what was desirable to be done. So far from there being danger to them, this country asked them to do nothing except that which they mutually understood and to which they freely assented all round.

Quiet Christmas Day

Christmas day passed quietly throughout the United Kingdom. The most notable feature of the day was the large amount of charity distributed as the result of the generous sum of money collected for this purpose through the newspapers and other channels. Weather conditions were improved, though the fog still hung over London, interfering to some extent with shipping in the rivers and channels. A few minor railway accidents were reported late Saturday night, one to an excursion train.

Big Loss in London Owing to Fogs

The conditions prevailing among the shipping in the Thames for nearly a week were considerably improved on Wednesday. Much of the produce intended for the London market was unloaded. The loss, however, through its late arrival, aggregated several hundred thousand pounds sterling. The American meat, Russian poultry and shipments of fish deteriorated in value about £300,000. Several collisions of a more or less serious nature have occurred.

Canadian Cotton Combine

A correspondent writing from London sends the following: The intelligence of the Canadian cotton combine created considerable interest in Manchester, but in the absence of full particulars the leading merchants will not venture an opinion. The general impression is that the position of English spinners will not be affected. In the absence of verification of the news at Liverpool the market remained entirely unaffected.

Cousin of Earl Sent to Jail

A. E. Craven, a cousin of the Earl of Craven, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin, formerly of New York, has been sentenced to 21 days in jail for a brutal assault on a fellow passenger on a train. The latter while entering a crowded car bumped against Mr. Craven's knee with his gripsack.

WAR WEWS

JAPANESE PLACED HEAVY GUNS ON METRE HILL

General Stoessel Reported Wounded—Japs Will Attack Port Arthur from East and West Sides—War Summary For the Week.

Tokio, 31.—The Japanese captured forty-three guns when the Rihlung fort was taken.

Hope For Mediation

Berlin, Dec. 29.—It is believed here that the latest rumor regarding the willingness of Emperor Nicholas to listen to the mediation proposals rests upon a fresh inquiry of France as to what terms he is willing to accept in the case of mediation. Official circles in Berlin entertain the possibility that something in this direction has been going on since it has been known that France and Great Britain were anxious to terminate the war.

Gen. Stoessel Wounded

Tokio, Dec. 28.—Trustworthy advices from Port Arthur confirm the report that General Kondarchenko has been killed and that General Stoessel has been injured by falling from his horse. General Smilnov is also reported wounded. The advices further say that the stern of the battleship Sevastopol has sunk in shallow water. Her bow is damaged in two places and the steering room gear is also damaged.

Millions of Cartridges Seized

London, Dec. 28.—The correspondent of the Times at Peking says that the Russian cartridges seized at Fengtai number about 3,500,000. They were concealed in about 2,000 bales of wool.

Russian Warship Stop British

Las Palmas, Canary Islands, Dec. 28.—The British steamer Bellardien, from Montevideo, Dec. 4, which sailed from here today, reports that a large Russian vessel steamed alongside of her on Dec. 22 in latitude 11 north and longitude 23 west, examined her with the aid of two searchlights, and then withdrew eastward. She apparently belonged to the Russian volunteer fleet.

Japanese Retire

London, Dec. 27.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Chefoo, in a dispatch dated Dec. 26, says: "A message from Port Arthur ascribes a Japanese attack on the evening of Dec. 22 with a light column of 1,000 men and machine guns on the northern defences. They dashed along the railway, carried trench after trench, and succeeded in reaching the water course beneath Payuisan mountain, whence the Russian artillery worked terrible execution. A fierce bayonet fight occurred at midnight. A strong Russian force, advancing eastward of Payuisan mountain, threatened the retreat of the Japanese, who after a desperate struggle, retired to the north, leaving several machine guns, 300 rifles and 80 prisoners. It is estimated that they lost 600 killed. The Japanese halted near the cemetery, and finding that both flanks had carried all the works forming the outlying range of the main forts, they entrenched on small hills near Etz mountain under a severe enflading fire, which caused them further heavy losses."

Japs Again Victorious

Tokio, Dec. 25.—The following report was received from the besiegers at Port Arthur this morning: "A body of our right wing surprised the enemy at Housantayao and Siaofantun (the latter point about six miles and a half northwest of Port Arthur) at 10 o'clock on Saturday night and occupied the whole of Taluchiatun (about five miles northwest of Port Arthur) at 2:55 o'clock this morning. Our repeated attacks during the past few days were uniformly successful and now the whole of the enemy's advanced position fronting our right wing is in our hands."

Kuropatkin's Address

Mukden, Dec. 25.—General Kuropatkin, addressing the troops today, said: "You must never allow yourself to retreat. Even in the case of the smallest detachment, having once formed a plan it must be carried out to the end."

Getting Third Fleet Ready

St. Petersburg, Dec. 25.—Admiral Birleff is quoted in an interview as saying that all the shipyards in the Baltic are working night and day and that the third squadron will go out in two sections. The admiral pledges himself to have the first section, which will include the Seniavin, Apraxin, Ushatoff, Nicholas II and Korniloff ready by February, and the second, consisting of the Slava, Alexander II and Pamaiz-Azova, a little later.

Destroyer on the Way

Algiers, Dec. 25.—The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Prouzitelny has arrived here.

Prepared to Meet Enemy

London, Dec. 24.—Telegraphing from Tokio, the correspondent of the Daily Express says he learns that in the event of Admiral Kamimura, who is reported to have gone south with a squadron of powerful cruisers, notifying it of the approach of the Russian second Pacific squadron, the entire Japanese fleet, which has been operating at Port Arthur, will be ready to proceed south on a day's notice to give battle.

London, Dec. 24.—The Times correspondent at Peking reports that the Chinese have seized at the Fengtai station, near Peking, three million rounds of Russian rifle ammunition consigned to a Russian firm at Tien Tsin and evidently designed for Port Arthur. The ammunition was concealed in bales of wool brought from Kalgan on camels.

Claims For \$600,000

The London Board of Trade enquiry into the North Sea incident closed Tuesday afternoon. It is said that the claims against the Russian Government aggregate about \$600,000.