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CHICAGO POST.

VOL. 15.--NO. 49.

SACKVILLE, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1885.

WHOLE NO. 778.

Deserve Success and you shall Command it.

THE EASTERN WAR CLOUD.

The Russian Naval Position in the Black Sea and the Probable Aspect of a War.

Port of Refuge.—Turkey's Military Force.—The Turkish Fleet.

(From London Times.)

Should the present negotiations end finally in an appeal to arms, Afghanistan will naturally be the great battlefield, but it is hardly to be supposed that fighting would only take place in that remote region. To insure success in that quarter it would be imperative for us to strike elsewhere, so that the necessities of home defence would prevent the Muscovite Government from sending into Central Asia all its available forces. The question to be considered, then, is how Russia is to be attacked in order to create diversion favorable to our arms in Afghanistan. We could send an ironclad fleet into the Baltic, but it would find no enemy's ironclads to oppose it, and a commercial blockade in the present day, with the great development of railways that has taken place, and our own acceptance of the free-trade doctrine that "the neutral flag protects the goods of the enemy," would do little or no harm to Russia. Then, again, Petropavlovsk and the other Russian settlements on the Siberian coast could be captured without much difficulty, but the blow would not more tell upon the course of the Afghan campaign than would the operations of our fleet on the shores of the Baltic. The only point about Russia really vulnerable to British attack is her Black Sea shore. We should here be operating on the flank of her communications, and could do much to prevent the despatch of reinforcements and supplies to the theatre of war. The easiest route by which troops could be sent from Russia to support an advance upon Afghanistan is clearly the Black Sea and Transcaucasian Railway. The weak point in this line of communication is the sea portion. It is open to the attack of a naval force, and in closing it up by the action of our fleet we should greatly assist the military movements in Afghanistan. By a close watch upon the Black Sea ports, even if no offensive operations were attempted, we should compel the Russians to send forward all their supplies by the long and circuitous route of the Volga. The objective of our attack upon Russia in case of war should be, as it was on the last occasion, her southern shores. The attendant circumstances, however, are widely different now from what they were then. In the first place, Turkey holds the portals of the Black Sea, and whereas before she would have been fighting on our side, it is a question now whether we might not have to force our way up the Dardanelles and Bosphorus in order to reach the enemy beyond; and, secondly, the naval strength of Russia has much increased of late years, and she is able both to attack and to defend. During the late war with Turkey, the command of the Black Sea was held by the latter, through its ironclad fleet, and to reverse this condition of affairs on the next outbreak of hostilities between them has been the constant care of the Russians ever since. The reader is probably little aware of what has already been done in this respect, and the efforts still in progress. Nicolaeff and Sebastopol are two great naval strongholds that may be considered invulnerable to attack. At each of these places there are ship-building establishments of the first class, and the Russians have now upon the stocks three ironclads intended to overmatch in point of armament and armour the most formidable vessels of the British Navy. Very suggestive of Russia's evil designs upon Turkey are the names given to these ships—Catherine II., "Sinope," and "Thesepi." The last two of these vessels, victories over the Turks, and the first that of the Russian monarch in whose reign the first great ironclad was made upon the power of the Turks in Europe. The "Thesepi" and "Sinope" are both being built at Sebastopol. As neither of these ships can possibly be completed for at least two years, they need not be taken into account in speaking of the chances of war at the present time.

TORPEDO VESSELS.

The most formidable feature of Russian naval strength in the Black Sea is undoubtedly the first class sea-going torpedo vessels she possesses. These are vessels capable of carrying 1,000 miles on end, and can keep the sea on their own account for days together. They carry four Whitehead torpedoes each, besides Nordenfled guns, and when necessary can steam at very high rates of speed. Russia has a great many torpedo boats in the Baltic, and these can be transported at any time to Sebastopol or Nicolaeff by means of the railway boats of the two seas. The coast defence service has been highly developed of late years in the Black Sea. At Kertch, for the defence of the narrow channel, as at Cronstadt, several lay torpedoes are kept in store, with which practice is continually carried on. Every harbour, too, has its organized system of stationary mines. Large

quantities of material have been prepared and placed at each port in readiness for blocking the approaches at the shortest notice. The mines are all prepared, even to the charging, the mooring out to the length required, &c., and nothing left but the priming to be done at the last moment. All the mines and their parts are numbered, and to insure efficiency the men of the various torpedo corps have constant practice in placing and removing them. The favourite mine of the Russians is the automatic electric mine known as the Hertz torpedo. It was used with some success during the late war with the Turks, and the Russians appear to place great reliance upon it, as they have had a very large number of them made, and they form the backbone of all the harbour defences. These torpedoes, however, can be removed without much danger, as was proved by the Turkish operations at Sulina.

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120—PACKAGES—120

Comprising a Varied Assortment in most Departments:

LINEN TABLES AND HOLLANDAISES, TISSUES, PRINTS, TURKEY REDS, CRETONEES, REGATTAS, HANDKERCHIEFS, UMBRELLAS, PARASOLS, RIBBONS, LACES, &c.

20—CASES—20

GLOVES, LACES, LACE CURTAINS, COUNTERPANES, TOILET COVERS, PIQUETTES, &c., &c.

A. EVERITT,

Wholesale Dry Goods Warehouse, 54 and 56, Germania Street, ST. JOHN, N. B.

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FARMERS WHO USE

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For the Growth of Crops.

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It cannot fail to give satisfaction when properly used. It is excellent when used alone, but will give still better results when used with half the ordinary quantity of stable manure, or with thoroughly rotted manure compost. Five years' experience with leading farmers has proved its equality to the most expensive and its low price. Don't fail to give it a trial. For further information write for pamphlet to the undersigned, or to the nearest agent in your vicinity. It is in your favor, to EDWARD LEITCH, at Sackville, or to L. O. NEILY, Manufacturer, Aylesford, King Co., N. S.

March 18, 1885.

Champion Creamers.

NOW is your time to secure Creamers for the approaching season. No good farmer will be without them. Those who are not are at a disadvantage. We have now a large stock of the above Champion Creamers on hand, and are daily receiving orders from a distance. Orders will be promptly attended to.

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