

A SLIGHT DEFEAT

Chinese Get Rather the Better of the Japanese—Bad Weather

Officers Degraded—Chinese Expedition to Defend Formosa—Certain

LONDON, Feb. 5.—A dispatch to the Central News from Tokio says that Marshal Oyama, in reporting the capture of an inland town and coast forts in the vicinity of

Wei-Hai-Wei, says the Japanese forces met with no resistance. The Marshal stationed a battalion at each fort. The Chinese on February 3 destroyed all their junks and boats. On the same date the two fleets were unceasingly engaged.

The Times to-morrow will print a dispatch from its Hongkong correspondent saying

A Hiroshima dispatch says that despite the fierce and prolonged Japanese attacks upon the forts at Lin Kung Tao the Chinese still hold the forts.

Colonels and two captains have been degraded for retreating from Yung Cheng. A Times dispatch from Tientsin says the latest news from Wei-Hai-Wei shows that half the northern forts on the mainland are holding out against the Japanese assaults. A Japanese ship was damaged and torpedo boat sunk while attempting to force the northern entrance of the harbor. The Times to-morrow will print a letter from a correspondent at New Chwang under date of January 29, saying that the Japanese met with a slight reverse on January 17 near Hai Chang, being defeated by 1,500 followers of the rebel quartermaster Han. The commander of a Manchurian battalion

ailed to support him was beheaded for cowardice. General Sung, the Chinese commander, was enjoying the New Year *festes* at New Changang. The mercury was *down* at New Changang and the Japanese troops were meeting with *disasters* owing to the severity of the weather.

PARIS, Feb. 5.—A Tokio dispatch says that the Chinese envoys were quite ignorant of the trick played upon them by the Chinese. They supposed they had been given full powers to negotiate. When their credentials were opened it was found they had no power either to conclude or sign a treaty of peace. Count Ito Hirobumi, president of the council of ministers, and the Japanese government were willing to open negotiations with the proposed Chinese.

A dispatch to the Times from Tientsin says: Admiral Ting, commander of the Chinese fleet at Wei-Hai-Wei, landed 2,000

On Wednesday last and made an attempt to recapture the southern forts from the Japanese. The Japanese, however, abandoned, and the Chinese re-embarked. Admiral Ting, who was held by Viceroy Lu Kun Yieh to be partly responsible for the loss of Port Arthur, and whose case was submitted to the board of punishment for the loss of the forts, was held responsible for the defense of the forts. He was held responsible for the loss of the forts. The Chinese military commanders are at variance.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 5.—The Japanese legation has received a cablegram from the Chinese foreign office giving the following explanation of the rejection of the Japanese peace commissioners: "At the meeting of the plenipotentiaries of Japan and China on

the 22nd, Count Ito, in an address to the Chinese plenipotentiaries, pointed out to them the defectiveness and insufficiency of their powers. He gave them positive assurances, however, that whenever China manifested a serious desire for peace by confiding actual and full powers to Chinese officials of such a nature and scope as would render it certain that the terms which might be agreed upon would be confirmed by the Chinese government, and would be actually carried out in good faith, Japan would be prepared to enter upon new negotiations."

YOKOHAMA, Feb. 4.—The following naval

report of the fighting about Wei-Hai-Wei has just been received here. It says: Three forts about Pailinhiyao were taken during the morning of January 30, Wednesday last. The naval land force at once occupied Chiappell and bombarded Tatsao Island. The enemy's ships and forts on Kungliachin islands replied and three or four sailors were killed. Our ships are still

outside the fort. With the exception of the third flying squadron, all our ships have returned to the Gulf of Yungohing, ready to move when the conditions permit. The foreign ships are observing the movements about Wei-Hai-Wei.

FOREIGNERS IN SAMOA.

BERLIN, Feb. 6.—The Post, the favorite organ of the foreign office, says to-day: "The tripartite land committee in Samos has concluded its work. The result is that the German claims are almost completely recognized and the excessive demands of the British and Americans only to

to moderate extent. The districts granted to the Germans are far better suited to cultivation than are the others. According to the Post 75,000 acres were allotted to the Germans, 36,000 to the English and 21,000 to the Americans. This allotment gave the Germans 75 per cent. of their claims, the English four per cent. and the Americans three per cent.

COLD THAT IS COLD.

Toronto, Feb. 5.—Intensely cold weather prevails throughout Ontario and Quebec. At midnight it was 15 below in this city, 24 below at Montreal and Ottawa.

New York, Feb. 5.—This was the coldest

light this city has experienced in years. At midnight the thermometer was at zero and a strong northwest wind was blowing. At 12:30 a.m. the mercury was half a degree below and is still falling.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—Chicago to-day experienced the coldest weather thus far this year, the official thermometer at the Auditorium registering fifteen degrees below

AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE.
HOBARTTOWN, Tasmania, Feb. 5.—A meeting of the intercolonial postal confer-

once held on Saturday was attended by the postmasters general of all the Australian colonies. Hon. John Gavan Duffy, of Victoria, was elected president of the conference. The first subject discussed was the Pacific mail. A resolution was adopted affirming the desirability of a four week service from Vancouver, alternating with San Francisco. The Pacific Mail will

was also discussed.