

ships to the vicinity of Liu-Kung-Tan island, and there attempted a last stand. On Tuesday, Feb. 12, however, he saw resistance was in vain and hoisted the white flag of surrender. He offered to surrender his ships and forts on the sole condition that the lives of his men should be spared, and Admiral Ito accepted these terms.

After the terms of surrender had been agreed upon, and all arrangements made by Admiral Ting, the old man quietly committed suicide, as did also the chief military commanders. There is something pathetic in the idea of the old sailor after his gallant defence, arranging for the safety of his men and then taking his own life, probably by an overdose of his favorite opium. *Requiescat in pace.* He was the finest specimen of a Chinaman I ever met, and he did his best to preserve the efficiency of his fleet in face of the incompetence and corruption of his subordinate officers. After the surrender, his dead body was placed on a Chinese ship to be taken to Tientsin, and as she passed out of Wei-Hai-Wei harbor the Japanese fleet lowered their flags to half-mast and fired minute guns as a tribute to his bravery.

Thus ended the operations round Wei-Hai-Wei, and once more the Japanese arms had achieved a brilliant triumph.

The Chinese fleet was all captured or had ceased to exist, the Japanese were in full possession of the two great Chinese strongholds, and now held undisputed command of the sea.

The defence of Wei-Hai-Wei was undoubtedly a gallant one considering that the garrison was Chinese, but this does not appear to have softened the heart of the Emperor at Peking. We learn that on hearing of the loss of the place he issued an edict ordering the decapitation of every official, both military and civil, who was present, and this without any further report being made to the throne. Soldiering has its drawbacks in China as well as elsewhere.

Let us now glance at the general situation. We left the Japanese 1st army supreme in Manchuria and across the Liao River. The 2nd and 3rd armies are now available for further offensive movement, and, always supposing that peace is not concluded meanwhile, who shall doubt that, with the first breaking up of the cold weather, they will be launched against Tientsin and Peking, and simultaneously the 1st army will threaten those places from the north.

Peking must remain the main objective of the campaign from a military point of view. Nothing but its capture will satisfy the national jingo feeling in Japan; and until the invasion of its sacred precincts by the enemy brings home to the Chinese Government the helplessness of their position, I do not believe that satisfactory terms of peace will be agreed to by them. Personally, I have not the slightest doubt that Japan can press on and capture Peking with the same certainty and irresistibility which has characterized her conduct of the war throughout, and in my opinion there is no consummation more devoutly to be wished than her success, and the humbling of China to the dust.

The latest news from the scene of hostilities is as follows:—

On March 24 a Japanese force, strength unknown, but probably furnished by the 3rd army from Wei-Hai-Wei, landed at Hai-Chow. The Chinese opposed the landing, but were repulsed, with a loss of 300. The viceroy of Nanking is reported to have sent 7,500 troops to the relief of Hai-Chow. The object of this movement of the Japanese is difficult to see, unless it be to gain possession of the Grand Canal, which is one of

the main arteries of supply to Peking. An advance on Nanking or Chinkiang by this route is also a possibility. Also on March 24 the Japanese fleet attacked the Pescadore Islands, and, after bombarding the forts defending them, landed a force which captured them from the rear. Ultimately the Islands were seized, with a view to their becoming the Japanese base of operations against Formosa. A few days later the Japanese ships appeared off Tai-Wan-Foo, the chief south-west port of Formosa, and commenced bombarding it. The news of the fall of this place is daily expected, and will be but a first step to the ultimate and inevitable occupation of the whole island by the Japanese.

Owing to the regrettable attack by a fanatic on Li-Hung-Chang, the Chinese peace envoy, the Emperor of Japan has ordered an immediate armistice till April 22nd. Hostilities are, therefore, suspended, and, in the event of the peace negotiations being satisfactorily concluded, the war will be at an end. Formosa and the south of China is, however, expressly excepted from the terms of the armistice, and the Japanese operations there will continue without cessation.

The interest of the world is now concentrated on the peace negotiations at Shimonoseki, and what demands Japan is likely to make is a matter of the most serious political moment, and one on which I have decided opinions; but, besides the limited time at my disposal this evening, I feel it would not be consistent with my position as an army officer to discuss publicly the very delicate political questions involved. I will only say that those political persons who speak so glibly of interference, and of forcing their views on the Japanese Government, somewhat underrate the difficulties of pressing an argument against a great and warlike nation in arms, flushed with victory, and at a distance of 12,000 miles from Europe.

Japan is undoubtedly destined to be the greatest power in the Northern Pacific, and that fact had better be cheerfully and clearly accepted at once, before she too fully realises her strength and position.

China is a huge pricked bubble, useless for offence, hopelessly divided against herself, and a wilderness of barbarism and stagnation. In the hands of Western or Japanese civilization some use may be made of her teeming millions, and she might even eventually become the great industrial "Power House" of the world; but as a separate and dominant nation she has practically ceased to exist.

The war is one between civilization and barbarism, and if the latter, in the guise of China, should triumph, it would be a disaster to the progress of the whole world.

And, when we consider the insular position of Japan, lying close to the shores of a great continent, and when we reflect on the causes which have made her greatness, may we not draw a parallel in the similarity of our own position in Europe, and take a lesson to ourselves.

What has contributed more to the triumph of Japan than her military organization and magazine rifles, is the absolute devotion and singleness of purpose shown by her people in the prosecution of the war. On the declaration of war the strife of political parties was immediately hushed, and all alike, from the Emperor himself down to the poorest coolie, offered all they had, their lives and their possessions, towards the furtherance of the national cause. A great wave of patriotism passed over the land, and, backed up by stout hearts and skill-

ed leaders, little wonder that that great corrupt conglomeration called the Chinese Empire went down before it like a house of cards.

And as it has been in the past and in this present case, so it will ever be. This war only affords us one more striking proof of the everlasting truths that "Unity is Strength," and that patriotism is the life blood of a nation. And if only the great British Empire takes this lesson to heart and combines together with a united front against the whole world if necessary, it can never be shaken on its base; and we can hand down intact to our children's children the heritage of that proud boast of Shakespeare's:

This England never did, nor never shall,
Lie at the proud foot of a Conqueror,
But when she first did help to wound
herself;
Come the three corners of the world in
arms,
And we shall shock them; naught shall
make us rue,
If England to herself do rest but true.

9th Annual General Meeting of The Ontario Artillery Association.

The 9th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association was larger than those of the last 3 years.

Col. H. P. Van Wagner, the President occupied the chair.

The Treasurer's statement showing a balance of \$521.15 and the Secretary's report were adopted.

A resolution taking the Firing points into account in awarding the general efficiency prizes was carried; the motion grew from the fact that the firing points had not been counted in the general efficiency of the Field Batteries as promulgated in the General Orders.

The Secretary was directed to write the Minister of Militia embodying the several recommendations as set forth in the Executive Committee's report and urge him to cause the same to be acted upon; the recommendations referred to were "that officers and marksmen detailed for practice should be sent to such practice as part of their annual drill with the pay and allowances of their rank and upon transport requisitions and that while under such detail and pay they will be in all respects subject to Military Discipline: Pay for four spare horses be allowed during annual drill in order to provide for casualties. A thorough inspection to be made of all stores at Battery Headquarters immediately following annual drill."

The general efficiency prizes were awarded as follows:

	Pts.		Pts.
Hamilton.....	556	Ottawa.....	513
Toronto.....	552.5	Welland.....	502
2,1 B. F. A.....	511		

The firing,	Pts.		Pts.
1 Welland.....	151	4 Hamilton....	117
2 Toronto.....	137.5	5 Gananoque..	99.5
3 Ottawa.....	126		

The following were elected officers for the year 95 96, President Major J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton; Vice-Presidents Lt. Cols. A. H. Macdonald, W. McKerzie, F. King, Capt. Neil MacNachtan. Committee Lt.-Cols. W. Nicoll and W. McLean, Majors J. H. Mead and D. C. F. Bliss, Capt. J. A. Hesketh; Hon'ry Treasurer Mr. Robert Myles; Hon'ry Secretary Mr. L. Honfray Irving; Hon'ry Auditor Mr. E. S. Cox.

At a meeting of the Committee, the prize list for 1895, was decided upon \$18 to A.R.C.A., silver cup to gentlemen