

The Scandinavians felt they might escape, but now they feel it is not too much to expect, if Japan be victorious, and if Russia be follow in her attempt to reach the Pacific, she may seek to annex part at least of the Swedish and Norwegian seaboard.

Another possibility confronts the Scandinavians. Should the war not be confined to the present combats, and should it extend to Europe, the neutrality of northern countries might be endangered. A strong public opinion is growing in Norway, Sweden and Denmark that they should combine to guarantee their neutrality and preserve their individual integrity under any circumstances.

THE RETVIZAN.

Russian Battleship Is Now in Inner Roadstead at Port Arthur.

Port Arthur, March 9.—The hole in the hull of the Russian battleship Retvizan was made during the first attack by the Japanese. She was repaired, and the battleship has been refitted. She is now anchored in the inner roadstead alongside the Czarvitch. The other necessary repairs to the ship will be completed shortly.

LAKE BAIKAL SAFE.

Experiments as to Thickness of Ice Required to Bear Trains.

Paris, March 9.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Figaro* says that no doubts existed as to what thickness of ice was required to bear trains safely over Lake Baikal, official experiments were made which proved that thirteen inches of ice would bear a heavy train. The ice in Lake Baikal is four feet thick. The railroad around the shores of the lake would bring together the two continents before the autumn.

MISSION OF RUSSIANS.

Vladivostok Squadron Said to Be Searching For Chilean Warships Purchased by Japan.

New York, March 9.—A cable to the Sun from Berlin says:

"The National Zeitung prints a St. Petersburg dispatch which says it is believed that the Vladivostok squadron has gone in search of the Chilean warships that Japan has reported to have bought."

"Naval officials in St. Petersburg are confident of the position they occupy. The foreign naval attaches think, however, that if the Vladivostok squadron ventures too far from the East it will be overwhelmed by the Japanese."

FRENCH DEFENCES.

Coast Artillerymen Busy on the Batteries at Marseilles.

Paris, March 9.—In pursuance of orders issued by the minister of war, active work has begun with the view of placing the coast defences in a state of readiness.

A hundred coast artillerymen have arrived at Marseilles, and are occupied in perfecting the harbor batteries. A force of naval mechanics are working on the approaches.

These measures are not considered significant except as an indication of the determination of the officials to have the coast defences in a state of preparedness.

GENERAL TRAFFIC STOPPED.

Military Trains Only Allowed to Run on Trans-Siberian Railway.

San Francisco, March 9.—The trans-Siberian railway has issued a notice to the public that owing to the war between Russia and Japan that part of the road between Irkutsk, in Siberia, and Dalny near Port Arthur in Manchuria, has been closed to all but military trains.

UNITED STATES POLICY.

Anxiety in St. Petersburg Regarding Its Aims.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—The undefined mistyings existing in very high quarters here regarding the ultimate aims and purpose of the foreign policy of the United States were voiced to-day in the following remarkable statement to the Associated Press:

"We are not for a single unknown quantity the European situation at present would be as perfect as possible. For the avoidance of one thing very chancellory in Europe has been detaining every nerve, namely, to prevent the engagement of an outside power in this war. That unknown quantity is our state department. The situation following the outbreak of hostilities was exceedingly delicate and surcharged with dangerous possibilities to the peace of the world and the level-headed statesmen of Europe instantly co-operated to make general catastrophe impossible, when almost at the inception Secretary Hay's circular note for the neutralization of China almost ditched them. But happily he did not press it to a point where differences were sure to have arisen, and as it turned out, owing to the length to which the powers gave attention to its principles, it really contributed to the treaty which all desired. The note might have proved disastrous did not the present moment find all of Europe practically in accord as to what should be done. The only place uncertainty is expected in Washington. We are as seen as to what to expect from Mr. Hay. American diplomacy in these later days is so aggressive, so startling sudden in the way it proposes propositions to the remainder of the world, that we have not time to prepare for the shock. It is a very great nightmare to Europe. The present situation is like an algebraic problem. Every quantity in the equation is known except one, and that one is Mr. Hay. He represents X. If we knew what he stood for or what he intended to do the solution would be easy."

CELEBRATING.

How Inhabitants of Vladivostok Received the Czar's Congratulatory Message.

Vladivostok, March 9.—"Long life to our great sovereign and to great Russia!"

So concluded the commandant of the fortress in a proclamation to the citizens reporting the Emperor's congratulatory message to Vladivostok on the baptism of fire on March 6th. Inhabitants celebrated the receipt of the gracious message last night with general rejoicings, processions along the streets, hand playing patriotic airs and the people, including the officers, singing the National Anthem. A crowd assembled in front of the commandant's residence, and he came out and read the text of the Emperor's message amidst a storm of cheers.

DRIVEN BACK BY JAPS.

Entrenchment of Czar's Troops Along the Yalu River Likely to Be Made Untenable.

London, March 10.—According to the Tientsin correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, the Japanese advanced across the Yalu river, captured Feng Huang Cheng, and drove out the Russians in the vicinity of the Taku Ling eastern pass, and they are, in fact, 70 miles east of Newchwang.

The Russians, with 35,000 men are entrenched strongly at Liao Yang and Pai Chang, where fighting is imminent.

Some small engagements already have been fought, the Russians retiring with losses.

This correspondent says, further, that the Japanese are using the same tactics and advancing along the same route they followed during the Chino-Japanese war.

The Ying Kow correspondent of the Paris office of the New York Herald also says there are vague rumors that the Japanese are fifty miles east of Antung and well to the westward of the Yalu river.

To some of the military critics, it is inconceivable that Japan can really have executed such an unexpected and successful turning of the Russian position on the Yalu river, which it is thought would have necessitated the employment of a much larger force than it is believed Japan can possibly have at this point.

The Daily Telegraph says that if the news of this strange and marvelous collapse of Russian power on land is true there is nothing to prevent the Japanese from seizing Mukden and the railroad. There was nothing to compare with this move since Napoleon staggered Europe. Its effects through the East will be stupendous.

A Surprise.

Tientsin, March 10.—According to circumstantial reports the Japanese have secured a foothold in southern Manchuria, and are now in force 70 miles east of Newchwang. Not only that, but they have succeeded in attaining a position that threatens the Russian columns with Port Arthur and Newchwang. If they are successful in the impending battle, they will be enabled to co-operate with the army now in northern Korea, with headquarters in Ping Yang, and make untenable the Russian entrenchments along the Yalu river.

By a series of rapid marches the Japanese succeeded in surprising the Russian position that had been sent to throw up entrenchments at Feng Huang Cheng, and compelled them to abandon the position, the Russians being outnumbered and unable to secure the commanding position planned.

The Japanese army then marched northward to an eastern pass to Taku Ling, and are now moving on Hai Tse and Liao Yang, where a force of 35,000 Russians are strongly entrenched. An engagement is imminent at the latter place, and if the Japanese are successful, the line of communication with Port Arthur will be cut, and the safety of the fortress, while Newchwang and its port, Ying Kow, are almost certain to fall.

The rapidity of the Japanese movement has bewildered the Russian commanders, and the result is that many small parties have been cut off and compelled to fight. All of these skirmishes have proved costly to the Russians, who have lost quite a number of men. This, however, is not the worst, as the apparent incompetency of their commanders has disheartened the Russian troops, who consequently are unable to fight with the spirit that means victory.

Confident.

London, March 10.—The Times this morning publishes what it terms "a remarkable instance of Japanese confidence." The Japanese have arranged for the dispatch of coal from England to Port Arthur or Vladivostok, and the steamers taking it are to call at Singapore for definite orders. The coal is explicitly warranted to be Japanese property.

Up to a late hour last night the Japanese legation here had heard nothing of the reported fighting at Port Arthur, or of the Russian Vladivostok squadron, but it is considered significant that none of the Russian official dispatches make any mention of the Vladivostok cruizers.

Chinese Hostile.

Paris, March 10.—A dispatch from Harbin states that the attitude of Chinese officials throughout Manchuria is one of consistent hostility to Russia. In many cases the Chinese forbid the sale of supplies and provisions, on the ground that it is a violation of neutrality. The Japanese, according to Russian reports, are distributing maps of Port Arthur, showing the forts there in the possession of Japanese and the Russians driven out of the neighborhood.

Foreign Ships Withdraw.

Ying Kow, March 9.—The British consul strongly officially urges the foreign women and children to leave Newchwang before the river opens. The British station gunboat Espley will leave as soon as possible, and will not be replaced. The family of the United States consul, Mr. Miller, leaves tomorrow.

It is understood that the neutral powers will not embarrass Japan by the presence of warships in the river here, and therefore neutral interests at Newchwang will be officially abandoned.

It is reported that the action of the Russians in ordering Newchwang to be fortified was due to the withdrawal of the foreign warships, thus removing the last possibility of the neutralization of this port. Russians received by train this morning two five-inch siege guns and two six-pound howitzers. They were unloaded at Newchwang railway station.

"Faithful and True."

Vladivostok, March 9.—The Czar, in his message congratulating the defenders of Vladivostok, expressed his conviction that they would make a rampart of their bodies to protect Russia's stronghold against the attacks of the enemy.

To the message of the Czar, the commandant of the fortress added:

"In bringing to your knowledge the precious words of the Czar, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for the good order and tranquility you have maintained, and for the readiness shown by you in fulfilling the onerous duties imposed by warfare. Not only have you uncomplainingly complied with all the requirements of law, but you have done more. From your wives, sisters and daughters there have come sisters of mercy, and many have joined the corps raised by the town. Whatever forces you possess, you will be found faithful and true servants of our father, the Czar. Before the eyes of all Russia, and even before the whole world, we will ever be ready to sacrifice our lives in the defence of the stronghold on the shores of the Pacific, which has been entrusted to our care."

"Long life to our great sovereign and to great Russia. Hurrah!"

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GENERAL INTERVIEWED.

Thinks Alexieff Will Soon Ask to Be Relieved—Kouroupatkin Opposed War.

Paris, March 10.—The Journal publishes an interview sent in by its correspondent at Nice with General Baron Kellor Zakoupatkin, commander of the 7th army corps, Russia, which is stationed in the Crimea.

The correspondent expressed surprise at the general's absence from Russia in time of war, whereupon the general declared that the war in the Far East had little effect upon the life and duties of a majority of men in the Russian army, and that Russia had not reduced her forces on the German and Austrian front. He severely criticized the management of the campaign in the Far East, and said that if it were not for General Kouroupatkin, who was to take over the duties of Alexieff, he would not last long, and said that General Kouroupatkin, who was well acquainted with the Japanese, had been opposed to the war, but had seen that it was inevitable.

WESTWARD BOUND.

Russian Cruiser Dmitri Donskoi Now in Suez Canal.

Suez, Egypt, March 10.—The Russian armored cruiser Dmitri Donskoi has entered the canal bound for the Mediterranean.

WILL BE SENT HOME.

Four Hundred Russians, Chinese and German Sailors Released.

Nagasaki, March 10.—The crews of the captured vessel commanded by Japanese warships since the war began have just been released, and in all 400 Russians, Chinese and Germans have been turned over to various consuls to be sent back to their own countries.

Forty of the officers taken at the same time still remain at Sasebo.

The coal cargo of the Norwegian steamer Hermes has been released.

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Chambers of Commerce Favor an Investigation—Discussion in the Commons.

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In the House of Commons to-day Dunstan V. Pirie (Liberal) after calling attention to the public utterances of the chancellor of the exchequer, Austen Chamberlain, and other members of the government on the fiscal question, moved "That the United Kingdom government in the central position of the protective tariff which is encouraged by the language used by certain of His Majesty's ministers, deem it necessary to extend its condemnation of any such policy."

Herbert Asquith, the principal opposing speaker, drew from Premier Balfour the admission that he had withdrawn the measure presented to the cabinet advocating preferential tariffs and a tax on food. The Premier said he did not believe the country would accept any such arrangement with the colonies in view of the taxation of food, and contending that Unionists who desired to go further than that were entitled to their view, but that they need not, therefore, vote against the government.

Mr. Pirie's motion was finally rejected, 280 votes to 243, and loud opposition cheers greeted the reduction in the government's majority. A number of free-trade Unionists supported Mr. Pirie, and some protectionists abstained from voting.

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Chamberlainites to the number of one hundred held a hurried meeting and intimated that unless the Wharton amendment, be withdrawn they would abstain from voting on the Pirie motion. As this would almost certainly have led to the defeat of the government, Mr. Wharton's amendment was withdrawn.

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WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY.

Arbitration Proceedings to Determine Cost of Property Required by City.

It is expected that the arbitration proceedings to determine the value of two pieces of property owned by Weiler Bros., required by the city for the extension of Douglas street across the James Bay flats, will be commenced on Monday. P. R. Brown has been appointed arbitrator for Weiler Bros., and Robert Beaven will represent the city. They have selected a third arbitrator in the person of A. H. Griffiths, J. P.

Walls will act as counsel for Weilers.

The conveyance of ground from the lot recently acquired by the city in Spring Ridge to the James Bay flats along the line of Government street has been delayed in consequence of a hitch between the corporation and S. T. Styles. The difficulty is over a small strip of land belonging to Mr. Styles, through which access to the property purchased by the city is obtained. It is thought likely that an arrangement satisfactory to both parties will be entered into to-day. On the recommendation of the streets committee the matter was left in the hands of a special committee consisting of Aids, Oddy, Elford and Beckwith.

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THE MEETING OF DOMINION HOUSE.

N. A. BELCOURT, M. P., SPEAKER OF COMMONS.

Lord Minto Will Attend To-Morrow and Read the Speech From the Throne.

Ottawa, March 10.—There will be a large attendance in the House of Commons to-day when the entire proceedings will be devoted to the election of Speaker. The formal opening takes place to-morrow when Lord Minto will deliver the speech from the throne. N. A. Belcourt, M. P., Ottawa, will be elected Speaker. The fact that he has been nominated for the position by the Premier and the government insures his election, but there is every reason to believe that in this case there will be no opposition, and that Mr. Belcourt's election will be made unanimous. Sir Elzear Taschereau, the Deputy Governor and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, attended in the Senate to-day, and instructed members of the Commons to proceed with the election of a Speaker. That the Commons will do and then adjourn until to-morrow.

Election Unanimous.

N. A. Belcourt was unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Commons to-day.

Postage Rates.

Sir William Mulock is in communication with President Diaz, Mexico, to get two cent postage rate between Canada, Mexico and expects to succeed shortly.

Supreme Court.

In the case of Turner v. Corvan, in the Supreme court judgment was given, dismissing the motion to vary the minutes of judgment by making provision for the repayment of costs paid by respondent after the judgment appealed from.

THE FISCAL POLICY.

Chambers of Commerce Favor an Investigation—Discussion in the Commons.

London, March 9.—The Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom to-day adopted the following resolution: "That the United Kingdom government is absolutely not to be restricted and unfair arrangements directed against the commerce of the empire; and that the Chambers of Commerce should advise His Majesty's government in measures for negotiation, but urge the government to appoint a royal commission to investigate and report on the whole fiscal policy of the nation."

In the Commons.

In the House of Commons to-day Dunstan V. Pirie (Liberal) after calling attention to the public utterances of the chancellor of the exchequer, Austen Chamberlain, and other members of the government on the fiscal question, moved "That the United Kingdom government in the central position of the protective tariff which is encouraged by the language used by certain of His Majesty's ministers, deem it necessary to extend its condemnation of any such policy."

Herbert Asquith, the principal opposing speaker, drew from Premier Balfour the admission that he had withdrawn the measure presented to the cabinet advocating preferential tariffs and a tax on food. The Premier said he did not believe the country would accept any such arrangement with the colonies in view of the taxation of food, and contending that Unionists who desired to go further than that were entitled to their view, but that they need not, therefore, vote against the government.

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