

EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Secretary of State Hay is again ill with the grip.

Port Arthur forts are running short of ammunition.

Interior department officials seriously object to Roosevelt's new forest reserve order.

Russia will consider the granting of breach concessions by America as a breach of neutrality.

Contrary to rumors circulating, Ex-President Kruger, of the Transvaal, is in the best of health.

Clarence Mackay proposes to organize a trust to handle the companies originated by his father.

The report of the American commander at Chemulpo shows that Russian criticism was unwarranted.

An Alabama Negro, who shot two mail clerks, has been run down, and is now in jail guarded by state militia to prevent lynching.

A bill has been introduced in congress to allow the Philippines to issue \$10,000,000 of non-taxable bonds for public improvements.

The house has passed a great number of pension bills.

Russia has issued a proclamation setting forth the contrabands of war.

France is now satisfied European powers will not be drawn into the war.

Advance guard of the two armies meet near Ping Yang and a slight engagement followed.

Russian demeanor toward Americans at St. Petersburg is no longer one of friendliness.

Land office clerks deny on stand that speculator Benson paid them for inside information.

Russia has a force scattered from Wiju, on the Yalu river, to Jokunshan, on the bay of Corea.

Japanese expect their fleet to continue its attack on Port Arthur until it falls or is made untenable.

Oregon senators have opened a fight on the Frye shipping bill, declaring it discriminates against the Columbia.

A determined effort is being made to increase the salary of rural mail carriers. At their present pay they only make a bare living.

The house has passed the naval appropriation bill.

Chicago strikes involving 25,000 men are greatly feared during March.

Ex-minister of France says her navy is too weak to attempt to aid Russia.

Corea has decided to order her troops to join the Japanese forces in the field.

Military experts predict a great battle on the Yalu river and a Japanese victory.

President Roosevelt has issued a proclamation putting the Panama canal treaty into effect.

By the collapse of a high scaffold at the Chicago postoffice one man was killed and 35 others narrowly escaped his fate.

Dissolution of the English parliament is at hand and King Edward is prepared to have Lord Spencer form a new cabinet.

Receiver Booth, of the Roseburg, Oregon, land office has severed his connection with the lumber company, thus removing the objection of Roosevelt to his re-appointment.

Ten children were badly burned at a fire in a church in Cincinnati.

The president has fixed his signature to the Panama canal treaty.

China is sure to join Japan as soon as her army wins a great victory.

Russia is very angry with Britain over Lansdowne's book on Tibet.

Russian merchants have adopted a policy of retaliation against America.

The Panama canal company will in no way block the transfer of property to the United States.

The senate has passed the agricultural and legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bills.

The house has turned down amendments to strike out a battleship and cruisers from the naval appropriation bill.

Japanese forces have landed at Posit bay and advanced to Hun Chan. The Russian garrison on their approach fled to Kirin without firing a shot.

Russia is pouring troops into Port Arthur at a rapid rate.

The United States has ordered troops to Panama to relieve marines.

Two members of a desperate robber band have been captured in California.

Russian military officials are confident the war will be over by September.

Fire at Brookport, N. Y., did great damage to property.

General Charles Dick appears almost sure to succeed the late Senator Hanna.

Japan has offered to aid China in requiring the Russian gunboat to leave Shanghai.

France gives sympathetic support to the note of Russia declaring that Japan has violated international law.

W. Bourke Cockran has been elected to the seat in Congress vacated by Mayor McClellan, of New York.

FIRE AND WATER.

Twin Elements Take Fourteen Lives Off Tillamook.

Seattle, Feb. 29.—Fourteen people lost their lives as the result of the fire on the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's steamer Queen from San Francisco to Seattle, early yesterday morning. The origin of the fire is as yet unknown. It started in the social hall of the vessel at about 4:30 in the morning, and raged for three hours before it was got under control.

When the conflagration was first discovered, the life boats, containing the women and children and many men, were launched, but three of these, owing to the heavy seas, were capsized, spilling the passengers in the water and causing the loss of their lives. Three men, waiters on the vessel, were suffocated before they could reach the outer air in safety from their bunks in the glory hole in the after part of the ship, and one woman died from exposure.

According to the stories told by passengers and crew of the Queen, which arrived in this port at 5 o'clock this afternoon, the vessel was off Tillamook and about 30 miles from land when the fire was discovered. There was a heavy sea on, and the ship was pitching badly. When smoke was discovered coming out of the social hall on the aft of the main deck of the vessel the crew immediately routed out and the hose manned, while the stewards went from cabin to cabin waking up the passengers. There was no disorder, either among crew or passengers.

RUSSIAN SCOUTS DRIVEN BACK

Japanese Encounter Infantrymen in Neighborhood of Ping Yang.

Tokio, March 2.—The first shots of the war on land were exchanged yesterday at Ping Yang. A small detachment of Russian infantry, evidently scouts, appeared this morning to the northward of the town. The Japanese outposts opened fire from a range of 1700 meters, and the Russians retired. The telegram reporting the incident fails to mention any casualties. It is presumed there was none, on account of the small number of men engaged, and the distance separating the opposing forces.

It is anticipated here that there will be a small engagement soon somewhere in Northern Corea, where the Russians are scouting over an extended area, close to the Japanese positions, but a general engagement is not expected to occur for some time.

The Russian force south of the Yalu River is inconsiderable, its greatest strength seeming to be in the vicinity of Wiju. North of the Yalu the Russian army is constantly increasing in numbers, and is being mobilized, but the chances of its assuming the offensive are still slight. Japan is constantly strengthening its position and increasing its force in Corea.

JAPANESE SHIPS HEADING BACK

Take on Coal and Ammunition, and Leave for Port Arthur.

Wei Hai Wei, March 2.—A portion of the Japanese squadron was sighted off the Shantung coast this morning. The warships are believed to have been coaling and replenishing their supplies of ammunition preparatory to rejoining the ships at Port Arthur and renewing the bombardment of that port.

Min Mong Chul, the new Korean minister to China, who is proceeding to Peking, paid an official visit to the British Commissioner at Wei Hai Wei today. He expressed the opinion that the new Japanese-Corean treaty will greatly strengthen Corea and give the country renewed life for the future.

Coreans, he said, recognize Japan's honest intentions regarding their future welfare, and he considered that the future development of Corea is now assured. Japan will prevail against Russia, he said, and Corea will do all in her power to bring this about.

No Great Sea Battle.

Tokio, March 2.—As the campaign progresses it seems that the chances are growing slimmer for a great pitched battle on the open sea between the fleets of modern battleships which the world has long awaited. It is believed here that the Russians lack the strength to assume the offensive and that they will probably stick to Port Arthur doggedly to await a sea and land investment.

Whoever wins the war, Port Arthur will undoubtedly cease to be an important base. The fortifications will probably be dismantled.

Americans to Be With Army.

Washington, March 2.—The Russian army formerly has granted the request of the United States that certain officers of the American Army be permitted to accompany the Russian troops and witness their operations in the war with Japan. Ambassador McCormick, in a cablegram informing Secretary Hay of this fact, states that the officers cannot join the Russian Army before April 15 of the Russian calendar year.

New War Near.

Odessa, March 2.—The orders that were issued a week ago to the two regiments of infantry at Kishinef and the one at Bender have been rescinded, and the commandants of three regiments have been ordered to hold their commands in readiness for action with contingencies in the Balkans. This is construed as meaning that the Russian government now considers war between Bulgaria and Turkey as inevitable.

SUNK BY SHELLS

RUSSIANS AGAIN LOSE IN BATTLE AT PORT ARTHUR.

One Torpedo Boat Sunk and Two Battleships Badly Damaged—Attacking Fleet Withdraws in Good Order, Is Met Outside, but Opponents Soon Seek Shelter.

London, March 2.—A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Yinkow, dated February 29, says: Fifteen Japanese warships furiously bombarded Port Arthur from 10 until 12 o'clock this morning. The Russian cruisers Novik, Askold and Buyan, accompanied by four torpedo-boats, steamed out to meet the attack. They were, however, forced to retire. The Askold was badly damaged, and a torpedo-boat was sunk. The Russian battleship Retvizan was again damaged. The Japanese withdrew in good order.

This battle shows a repetition of the now familiar tactics of Japan, and it is presumed the attack was made in bad weather, previous telegraphic advices having reported a severe gale raging at Port Arthur. As usual the Japanese did not remain long enough off the harbor to enable the gunners off the fort to get their range. Again at the time the three cruisers, the Buyan, the Askold and Novik, came out to meet the attack, and this suggests that either they were the only effective ships there, or that the larger battleships were unable to get out.

Many alleged dispositions of the opposing forces are published this morning, but they differ too much in detail to be of any great value.

A dispatch from Shanghai to the Daily Chronicle says the Russians are transferring the guns from the disabled ships at Port Arthur to the forts there.

A dispatch from Chefoo to the Standard, dated February 29, says a Japanese cruiser and torpedo-boat entered that harbor without lights at 11 o'clock on the morning of the 29th, and it is believed they embarked the Japanese who took refuge there after the attempt to bottle up Port Arthur.

A Tokio correspondent of the Times cables that the steamers sunk by the Japanese on either side of the Russian battleship Retvizan at Port Arthur practically obstruct the entrance to the harbor.

NOT RELISHED BY RUSSIANS.

Chinese Troops Are Concentrating to the Westward of Mukden.

Liao Yang, March 2.—General Mishchenko, with a detachment of mounted Cossacks, has reached Kashan, Corea, and is expected at Kiao Yang at once. His men and horses are in good condition and he is well supplied with provisions. The concentration of Chinese troops westward of Mukden, in the district of Gubantse, is not relished by the Russians. War material is being brought up and the militia posts are being strengthened. It is doubted if the attitude of the population can be relied upon. The people at several points refuse to sell produce to the Russians. Snowstorms are raging here and the frost is intense. The railroad is working perfectly and troops are arriving uninterruptedly. Their health and spirits are excellent.

SAY FORT WILL DESTROY FLEET

Russian Military Authorities Have No Fears for Port Arthur.

Moscow, March 2.—Interest throughout Russia is now fixed on Port Arthur, and speculation as to the probable fate of that supposedly impregnable fortress takes the widest range. The publication of General Stosel's order to the troops, while it has had the effect of arousing enthusiasm in Russia, had also attracted attention to the tremendous strategic value of that fortress and to the crucial part it plays in Russia's war for the defeat of the Japanese in Corea.

While the failure of the Japanese attempt to bottle up the fleet evoked sarcastic comment from the Russian press as to the Japanese cunning and the miscarriage of the enemy's plans, the Russian military authorities are pointing out that this attempt having been defeated, therefore it must follow Port Arthur is impregnable and the Japanese can never capture it.

Original Force of Rebels Was 3000.

Manilla, March 2.—General Leonard Wood reports, under date of February 15, an engagement with Datto Moros, under Hasan, on the island of Jolo. Lieutenant West and six privates were wounded. One has since died. The Moro loss was heavy. Hasan succeeded in making his escape. His original force of 3000 has now been reduced to 15. The island is now under control of the American authority, and influential Moros are aiding in the pursuit of the outlaws. The members of the constabulary who revolted at Vigan are all in custody.

Rations are Very Short.

New York, March 2.—The Sun has the following cable from its London correspondent: The Tientsin correspondent of the Express says that the repeated attacks on Port Arthur have created a condition approaching demoralization among the troops. There is little hope that the place will be able to make a long defense. Rations there are already exceedingly short, and it is expected that when the town is invested, hunger will soon compel its capitulation.

Will Not Advance for Month.

Paris, March 2.—Reports received from Russian sources state that the Russian land preparations in Manchuria will not be completed for a month, and the general advance cannot be ordered before that time. It is then expected that whatever ground the Japanese have gained will be overcome and they will be finally annihilated.

FIRE RUINS CAPITOL.

Wisconsin Must Reconstruct Its Fine State Building.

Madison, Wisconsin, Feb. 29.—The fire at the Wisconsin state capitol building caused a loss of \$800,000. The fire means the building of a new capitol, a special session of the legislature and the probable renewal of the agitation in favor of the removal of the capitol from Madison to Milwaukee.

The fire was caused by defective electric wiring. At 8 o'clock it had completely ruined the east and west wings containing the senate and assembly chambers and the departments of the tax commission, the adjutant-general, railroad commissioner, state school superintendent, superintendent of property, board of agriculture, state normal school, commissioner of fisheries, fish and game warden, state board of pharmacy, state land office, dairy and food commissioner, state treasurer, commissioner of labor, governor, secretary of state, state board of control and insurance commission, the supreme court, law library, and the state library commission.

Practically all the valuable state records are believed to be safe. Most of them remain in masonry and steel vaults in the ruins.

Fire apparatus was sent from Milwaukee.

Governor Schofield maintained insurance on the building throughout his term totalling \$600,000, but the last legislature instituted an insurance fund and directed the state's officers to allow the insurance policies to lapse.

In June last there lapsed \$510,000, and in December \$20,000. There is in the insurance fund at the present time about \$6000 to meet the loss.

The fire practically devastated every portion of the capitol building, with the exception of the north end. This was saved, but is in such a dilapidated condition that this portion, together with the standing walls, will have to be torn down.

Governor La Follette was early on the scene, and by his coolness and self-possession did much to enforce order among the workers. All the contents of the immense law library were carried out, together with a large quantity of other books and papers. The priceless records stored in the Grand Army room also were saved.

Chief Charles Bernard was overcome by smoke and fell from a ladder, receiving serious injuries. He is unconscious.

From an original cost of \$60,000 in 1837, appropriations from time to time for new additions made the cost of the state capitol to date about \$200,000.

RUSH TROOPS ON.

Japanese and Russian Armies Drawing Together.

Wei Hai Wei, March 1.—A lengthy description of the progress of the Japanese operations in Corea has been received over the new wireless telegraphic station between Seoul, Chemulpo and Wei Hai Wei. During the past few days but few troops have been landed from transports, the chief work having been the landing of supplies and 4500 ponies. These latter will be used for the transport of artillery and by the corps commanders. It is estimated by the Times correspondent that there has been landed, since the Japanese invasion began a total of 29,000 soldiers, including the entire Twelfth division and a part of the Second division. The Imperial guards who are expected to constitute the advance, have not as yet arrived. The artillery consists of six batteries attached to the Twelfth division. The guns are chiefly of the rapid fire variety, and designed especially for mountain use. When in shape for transportation, five ponies are required to transport each gun and carriage, and the members of the batteries are declared to be unusually expert in the use of the arms.

It is reported that troops are being landed in small bodies along the coast immediately south of Wiju. These can easily reach the Peking road, along which the Russians are reported to be encamped. By landing troops here instead of at Chemulpo the Japanese commander succeeded in placing them five days nearer the scene of prospective hostilities. Eight thousand Japanese regulars, accompanied by a mountain battery, are reported to be advancing beyond Seoul towards Ping Yang, at which place 350 Japanese scouts are encamped.

Russians Route Japanese.

St. Petersburg, March 1.—A dispatch received here from Liao Yang dated February 28 says that Chinese on the Yalu river report that an advance guard of Russian cavalry, which has penetrated Corea for a distance of about 200 versts across the river, had an encounter with a detachment of Japanese and that the Japanese were compelled to retreat and feed, leaving their horses, which were seized by Cossacks. General Linevich dispatched cavalry and a body of infantry in pursuit and with an order to occupy Northern Corea.

Blockade of Vladivostok.

London, March 1.—Vladivostok has been blockaded by a Japanese fleet since Thursday, according to a Daily Mail dispatch from Hakodate, which adds that incoming steamers report Russian cruisers on the east coast of Kingwansan, in the Bay of Sendai, Japan. Japanese warships have been reported in the vicinity of Vladivostok, but this report of a blockade, although considered probable, has not been confirmed from other sources. The Bay of Sendai is on the east coast of the northern end of the island of Nippon.

Chinese Troops to the Front.

Pekin, March 1.—Since February 23 four troop trains have left Pao Ting Fu for the Northwestern frontier. The last contingent leaves today on two trains, completing the force of 10,000 troops. These troops are all regulars and their equipment is excellent. They will be replaced by troops from Shan Tung province.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

AN IRRIGATION SECTION.

Echo the Pivotal Point for Many Enterprises.

Echo.—In no other part of Eastern Oregon is there as many irrigation schemes under way as along the Umatilla river between here and Pendleton on the east and here and Umatilla on the Columbia river.

Echo is the center of this unusual activity in irrigation enterprises. Some of the companies which have been incorporated, many of which are in the midst of extensive improvement work, are Maxwell Irrigation Company, Bethel Ditch Company, Minnehaha Irrigation Company, Oregon Land & Water Company, Three Mile Falls Irrigation Company, Sunnyside Company, Oregon Land & Construction Company, Bailey Ditch Company, Inland Irrigation Company, Brownell Ditch Company, Columbia Land & Irrigation Company, Allen others. There are also a number of others. There are also a number of private irrigation schemes under way by some of the farmers of the surrounding district.

Because water has already been supplied to a large section of the land below here, the district is now known as the famous Echo alfalfa meadows. Hundreds of tons of alfalfa are raised there yearly.

The irrigation project under way this year will be prove exceptionally valuable to the farmers who are now entering the sugar beet raising industry.

Some of the companies have purchased large tracts of the district and the property will be resold in small lots to be used for gardening and fruit raising purposes. The people are trying to make this district, which was once a land of desert and sage brush, a famous fruit belt.

HOW CHEMAWA HAS GROWN.

Great Indian School Celebrates Birthday With Good Cheer.

Chemawa.—The Chemawa Indian School celebrated its twenty-fourth anniversary one day last week. The pupils were given a half-holiday in honor of the day, and in the evening the whole school assembled in the auditorium and an appropriate program was rendered, consisting of addresses and music.

Twenty-four years ago the school was started by Captain Wilkinson, of the United States Army, at Forest Grove, and shortly after was moved to its present location at Chemawa. Then it had accommodations for 25 pupils, now it can care for 600 pupils; then it had three small frame buildings, and a half-acre of land, now it has 37 commodious structures and 245 acres of good land as found in the Northwest. From this small beginning it is now in size and importance and is now the fourth largest in the United States, and is classified as the Industrial School of the Indian Service.

Its pupils come from California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

Will Condense Milk in Coos.

Marshfield.—The establishing of a condensed milk plant in this city at the terminus of the Coos Bay & Roseburg railroad is almost assured. A. J. Seely, of Newberg, Or., is here on his second visit with a view of starting the enterprise. The Marshfield board of trade has offered all the inducements he could ask, and Manager Chandler of the railroad, has proffered the site, which is ideal, being the most central point in the county, from which milk can be received from all localities daily. The dairy interests of the county are extensive and the condensers will start with many tons of milk daily.

Will Quarry Belgian Blocks.

St. Helens.—The letting of the contract for 640,000 Belgian blocks for paving the streets of the metropolis will be a considerable help to the business of this community, as the blocks are to be quarried here, necessitating the employment of a large number of men whose wages run from \$20 to \$25 per week. The quarries will be operated. One on Milton Creek and the other below town, known as the Lister quarry. The latter has several feet of loose rock over the quarry and this will be barged to Portland, crushed and used on the city's streets.

Drop in the Price of Hay.

Pendleton.—The first drop in the price of hay as the result of the open winter, has occurred. Wheat hay, which for the greater portion of the winter, has been selling at \$13 per ton, now sells at \$11. Indications are that the price will go still lower. Baled timothy is still selling at \$22 per ton. There is a good supply on hand, because a small amount, compared to other winters, was used during the season about closed. A drop in the price of timothy is expected in a short time.

Mineral Exhibit for Fair.

Baker City.—State Commissioners Rafferty and Williams, of the Lewis and Clark Commission, are here, looking over the exhibit prepared by Superintendent Fred Mellis for the St. Louis exposition. They found a choice collection of ores and mineral specimens already arranged for the exhibit and a long and exhaustive list of specimens secured from the various mines, which will soon be on hand ready for transportation. It will be the most complete collection of minerals ever placed on exhibition from this state.

To Forbid Insurance Trust.

Lebanon.—In view of the fact that the cost of insurance is steadily increasing instead of decreasing, as companies here asserted that it would, Hon. M. A. Miller states that at the next session of the state legislature he will introduce a bill forbidding insurance companies to combine, as they are continually doing.

CUTS RIVERS OUT.

Chairman Burton Lined Up Against the Columbia Appropriation.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Chairman Burton, of the house rivers and harbors committee, today notified Senator Fulton that he would oppose the insertion in the sundry civil bill that is to be passed this session of any appropriation for continuing the improvement at the mouth of the Columbia river, or for continuing the construction of the Dalles-Celilo canal, which has been begun with the present appropriations.

Burton, contrary to the belief of the department, holds that neither of these projects are recognized by congress as continuing contracts; therefore, he will oppose appropriations for them until the regular river and harbor bill is framed next session.

Senator Fulton says an effort will be made to attach appropriations for the Dalles improvement, and for the mouth of the river, when the sundry civil bill reaches the senate, in the hope that the items can be retained in conference, for he regards it as vitally important that more money should be made available, so that work can continue throughout the coming fiscal year on these two important projects.

POWERS LIKELY TO FAVOR CZAR.

French Diplomats Deem Protectorate Over Corea Invalid.

Paris, Feb. 27.—It is the belief in the highest official quarters that the powers will support the Russian treaty of the invalidity of the Japanese treaty with Corea so far as it creates a Japanese protectorate over Corea, owing to the Emperor being under duress. But it is said that no immediate action on the part of the powers is required, as the protectorate will definitely arise when the terms of peace are considered.

In the meantime official opinion here is strongly sympathetic with Russia's position, and it is considered that Russia's note to the powers protesting against Japan's violation of Corea's neutrality fully protects international rights as the protest antedates the official announcement of the conclusion of the treaty.

The foreign office considers the announcement confirmatory of the view that Russia's protest to the powers was designed to reserve all her rights and to prevent international acceptance of the treaty establishing a protectorate.

WRECKS ARE ONLY HULKS.

Boats Japan Sent into Port Arthur Were Old Transports.

Paris, Feb. 27.—Additional details of the Japanese attempt to close the harbor of Port Arthur have been received from most authoritative quarters. These say the Japanese sent five or six old transport hulks, conveyed by torpedo-boats, to Port Arthur with the evident purpose of sinking the hulks at the entrance of the harbor. The battleship Retvizan discovered the approach and her fire on them was strongly seconded by that of the shore batteries north of Port Arthur.

The report adds that two Japanese ships were wrecked and lie in Tiger Bay, that along the shore another Japanese ship was burned, and a fourth lies a wreck on the shore outside Tiger Bay.

It is believed that these wrecks were not warships, but hulks designed to be sunk at the entrance of the harbor. The wrecks are said to be at considerable distance from the harbor entrance, which remains open.

AGAIN OPEN FIRE.

Japanese Squadron Determined to Destroy Port Arthur Fleet.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—Major-General Pfing, the chief of staff of Viceroy Alexeff, telegraphed as follows under today's date: "The enemy again attacked Port Arthur from 1 to 3 A.M., and was everywhere repulsed. Details follow."

Following the dispatches of Major-General Pfing, saying the Japanese had attacked Port Arthur Thursday morning and had been repulsed, Viceroy Alexeff has sent in an identical report to the Czar.

The fact that the Japanese have renewed the attack is interpreted here to mean that they are determined to bottle up or destroy the Russian fleet at Port Arthur in order to give themselves freedom for land maneuvers to cut off or invest the city, or as a feint to cover a movement elsewhere.

Damage to Port Arthur Serious.

New York, Feb. 27.—The Herald prints the following cable from its Chefoo correspondent, who received his information from Port Arthur people: "The Port Arthur forts had five guns silenced in the last battle. The damage to the town was serious. One shell struck amid the anchorage of hulks, blowing many to atoms. The Newsky works and the entire fort were struck three times. Several shells fell just short of the arsenal, striking the mule wall surrounding it, but doing no damage."

Conspiracy of Silence.

London, Feb. 27.—War correspondents and Europeans in Japan, commenting in amazement upon the success of Japanese officials in preserving secrecy regarding all the operations of war, declare that this "conspiracy of silence" is not only confined to government and secret service circles, but it extends to every section of the community. All classes of people are submitting with marvelous patience to being deprived of news, which they recognize as imperative to the success of the cause.

Trying to Intimidate China.

Tokio, Feb. 27.—The question of the stay of the Russian gunboat Mandjar at Shanghai remains unsettled. Paul Lessar, Russian minister to China, is said to be trying to intimidate the Chinese government in the matter, declaring emphatically that Japan has little chance of victory against a Russian army of 500,000 men strong.