

AMERICA'S ISLOW

Port Arthur Forts Cannot Hold Out Much Longer.

RAILWAY IN GREAT DANGER

Prominent French Merchant, Who Supplies the Russians, Believes It Will Be Impossible to Keep the Trans-Siberian Railway Open.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND PORTLAND OREGONIAN.

PARIS, March 1.—A well-known French merchant who has done a large amount of business with Port Arthur declares a shortage of ammunition in the forts can confidently be expected very soon. The Viceroy has planned to replenish the supply by means of the transport fleet, but they cannot now reach their destination.

The correspondent's informant declares that the danger of interruption of the traffic on the Trans-Siberian Railway has been underestimated, and he believes it will be almost impossible to keep the line open. The troops that are already en route to Manchuria over the railroad are carrying large quantities of supplies, while the supplies for these already in the field must also be sent by land. This means that the road is becoming congested and the equipment overtaxed. When the hot weather sets in, sickness among the Russian troops can also be expected to prove an additional handicap.

Railroad Traffic Congested.

SPECIAL WAR SERVICE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—The Times has the following from its Paris correspondent:

"There is considerable risk of communication by means of the Trans-Siberian Railway being cut off, for a time at least. The quantity of provisions for the troops in Manchuria is inadequate, it is asserted. The reinforcements proceeding daily to the front have to take their own supplies for the long journey, while the provisions for the army already in the field have to be forwarded by the same route. This causes congestion of traffic, and delays the arrival of troops."

DETERMINED TO TAKE FORT.

Russian General at Port Arthur Is Sure This Is Plan of Japanese.

PORT ARTHUR, Feb. 29.—General Bessel, commander of the garrison here, has issued a general order directing the attention of the troops and inhabitants to the fact that the Japanese intend to land and seize the fortress. The general declares that the Japanese consider the seizure of Port Arthur to be a question of national honor, and from their obstinate attitude and bombardment of the fortress they have concluded that the enemy will make every effort to capture the fortress, filling in which the Japanese will destroy the railroad and withdraw.

FEAR LAND AND SEA CAMPAIGN

Russians Believe Attack on Port Arthur Will Be Hastened.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 29.—Direct confirmation of the report from Hakodate that Vladivostok is blockaded by the Japanese vessels cannot be obtained here, but it is considered any time probable. During the Japanese landing operations in Korea, the Russian warships to the North were a constant menace, and blockade would be the most effective means of securing non-interference. Furthermore, it is worthy of note that for more than one week no fire has been allowed to come from Vladivostok, and this in itself seems strong presumptive evidence that important Japanese operations are being carried out there.

The report from Liao Yang, Manchuria, that the Japanese fleet has received orders to attack and capture Port Arthur on March 1, at all costs, coupled with the fact that the Japanese have been ordered to commence land and sea operations against Port Arthur sooner than was anticipated.

The family of a foreigner employed at Port Arthur arrived here yesterday, having made the trip in 18 days. One of the members said to the correspondent of the Associated Press: "The day after the outbreak of hostilities the authorities ordered all non-combatants to leave Port Arthur in order to have as few mouths to feed as possible in the event of a siege."

"If the Japanese invest Port Arthur there are enough provisions to last eight months. We passed a continual stream of troops going east."

According to a story printed here, Count Nirod, the midshipman killed in the battle of Chemulpo, was standing in the fighting-line of the Varig calling off distances, when his horse was struck and the Count fell from his station into the sea.

MUST HOLD PORT ARTHUR.

Russian Paper's Utterance Tends to Confirm Belief of a Siege.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 29.—The Novoye Vremya today publishes a remarkable editorial on the parallel between Port Arthur and Sebastopol, pointing out that the ports are identically situated. Golden Hill corresponding to the Malakof, Durnoy to Eupatoria, Admiral Alexieff to Admiral Nachimov, and the Retvizan to the Tris Stavitskii. The editorial, however, warns the Russians to abjure fatalistic beliefs.

Although written without the knowledge of General Stoessel's equally remarkable general order issued at Port Arthur yesterday, the Novoye Vremya's editorial comes as a strong reinforcement of its purport, that Port Arthur must in no case be surrendered. Both seem to forebode a siege of Port Arthur and a bombardment, which a dispatch from Liao Yang says is rumored at Niu Chwang will occur tomorrow.

Official opinion continues to be that the Japanese will make no attempt to invest Port Arthur immediately, although it is added that they evidently are determined to force matters as rapidly as possible. In 1894 they landed on the northern part of the peninsula, and the Chinese made no resist-

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RUSSIAN SCOUTS DRIVEN BACK

Japanese Encounter Infantrymen in Neighborhood of Ping Yang.

TOKIO, Feb. 29.—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 the hills 1300 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 large engagement soon somewhere in Northern Korea 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. Notes reached Kaohsiung, Korea, that the Japanese are constantly increasing in numbers, and is being mobilized, but the chances of it assuming the offensive are still slight. Japan is constantly strengthening its position and increasing its force in Korea.

NOT RELISHED BY RUSSIANS.

Chinese Troops Are Concentrating to the Westward of Mukden.

LIAO YANG, Feb. 29.—General Mientchenko, with a detachment of mounted Cossacks, has reached Kaohsiung, Korea, and is expected at Ichio Yang at once. His men and horses are in good condition and he is well supplied with provisions. The Korean officials are fleeing from the places traversed and are informing the Japanese of the approach of the Russians.

The Cossacks have seized the telegraph line in Northern Korea. A Japanese major and five men captured by Cossacks at Wiju, have been brought to Liao Yang. 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 Russian government 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.

PROTEST OF JAPAN.

Member of the Hague Has No Right to Attack Good Name of Nation.

THE HAGUE, Feb. 29.—The protest of the Japanese Minister in regard to the remarks by M. Muraviev, the president of the peace tribunal and Russian Minister of Justice, in the speech he made during the opening of the tribunal, is a decision in favor of the blockading powers as against Venezuela, says:

"The government of Japan, convinced that the permanent arbitration court can not properly be used as a means of attacking the action, motive or good name of a power signatory to the Hague convention of 1864, protests formally and solemnly, both in defense of its honor and dignity and to prevent further misuse of this high court against the insulting remarks of M. Muraviev, concerning the Japanese government. Japan further requests the insertion of this protest on the minutes, and the court, and that it be given publicity equal to that given to the remarks which called it out."

FEARS RIOT MAY BE INCITED.

Russia Asks Japanese to Quit Circulating Slanders in China.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 29.—An official news agency today publishes the following dispatch:

Port Arthur, Feb. 29.—According to advices from Peking, Prince Ching has pointed out to the Japanese Minister that the attitude of the Japanese living in China for more than a week have been spreading mendacious reports is calculated to cause a rising against the Europeans. The Prince therefore requested the Japanese minister to take the necessary preventive measures.

It is confirmed that a Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer was blown up and another sunk during the recent fighting. The wreck of the latter was subsequently washed ashore.

RUSSIAN NOBLES SHOW THEIR LOYALTY.

MOSCOW, Feb. 29.—A large representation of the nobility of the nobility and chief government officials was held here yesterday to discuss the best methods of assisting the Russian wounded during the war in the Far East. The close of the meeting a telegram was dispatched to the Czar expressing unbounded loyalty to him. His majesty immediately replied, expressing his heartfelt gratitude for the noble thought which inspired the message and the sentiments voiced toward himself, adding:

"I see in these expressions new testimony of a determination on the part of the Russian nobles to serve their Emperor as they did in former days, and to work in common with the sons of Russia for the welfare of our dear fatherland."

COREAN COURT GIVES TO RED CROSS.

TOKIO, Feb. 29.—The Korean Court has donated \$100,000 to the Red Cross Hospital fund.

The Ministers of the United States and Great Britain at Seoul are favorably inclined to the Japanese-Corean protocol. The Tokyo government has instructed the local authorities to extend special protection and facilities to the Russian Consulate at Fusan, Korea, who is to reach Moji, Japan, tonight, and proceed thence for Nagasaki, whence he will sail for home.

NOT SEEKING A LOAN IN AMERICA.

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—Japanese Consul-General Uchida, of this city, said today after receiving a cablegram from J. Komiya, Minister of Foreign Affairs at Tokyo:

"I am authorized to state that the Japanese government has no intention whatever of raising a loan in the United States, and the rumors to the effect that representatives of our government are sounding New York bankers as to the possibility of negotiating a loan here are absolutely unfounded."

WILL REMAIN IN BALITIC UNTIL JUNE.

PARIS, March 1.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris confirms the report that the Russian squadron under Admiral Wires, which was last reported in the Red Sea, is returning to Libau, Courland, and says it will remain in the Baltic until June.

RUSSIAN NOBLES' CLUB GIVES \$75,000.

MOSCOW, Feb. 29.—The Nobles' Club here has voted \$50,000 for the Navy fund and \$25,000 for the Red Cross Society. A tobaccoist has given 2,000,000 cigarettes, and a sugar refiner has donated a carload of sugar for the Red Cross Society.

RUSSIAN FORCE REACHES THE YALU.

TIENTSIN, Feb. 29.—Twenty-five hundred Russian troops are reported to have reached the Yalu, and two regiments of mounted infantry with artillery hold the mountain passes, some 15 miles south of Wiju.

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"We had no official advice on the subject," said an official, "but as the incident was attracting much attention here, it is a source of great gratification to learn the official report of the affair rendered by the Vicksburg to the Russian wounded, it will express to the United States the formal thanks, as in the case of the British, French and Italian warships."

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Russia Will Regard Concession of America as Violation of Neutrality.

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It is considered that the laying of the cable would be a purely commercial transaction, and the granting of permission for the laying of the cable at Guam would not violate the neutrality which the United States has assumed in respect to the Russo-Japanese conflict. As heretofore indicated, if the permission is granted, it is quite probable that the use of the cable during the progress of the war at least might be hedged about by certain conditions, but no definite decision has been reached.

It is said at the War Department that this is the only outlet possible for the cable. The Great Northern Company, it is said, is the only company which has cables running into Japan, and that is a Danish cable which is under Russian control. It being the land line along the Siberian Railway to the Asiatic Coast. Russia has made no protest to the Government regarding the granting of permission to lay the cable at Guam. It is assumed by Washington officials that if a protest is made it will be filed through regular diplomatic channels. When action the United States would take in that event cannot be foretold, as it would depend entirely on the circumstances of the case.

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Clan-na-Gael Scores the Policy Pursued by the United States.

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"We denounce the proposed arbitration treaty with England as a thinly disguised alliance, publicly avowed by its English sponsors to be the first step to an open alliance, intended to serve British interests alone, and to enable England to wage war on other countries with greater freedom."

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The officers who have been designated for this service are Colonel J. D. Kerr of the General Staff; Captain Carl Reichenmann, Seventeenth Infantry; Captain George Getley and Captain William D. Johnson, of the Engineer Corps, and were stationed in Manila, except Captain Johnson, who is in this city, and who will leave for St. Petersburg.

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