JAPAN'S WAR PLANS

May Be Brought to a Head by Recent Events in China.

NEW WARSHIP LEAVES ENGLAND

With the Vessels Now Nearing Completion, She Will Be Able to Defy the Russian Fleet.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—Some of the afternoon papers associate the departure of the new Japanese ship Shikishima with possible complication in regard to the situation in China, especially as it is announced the Shikishima will endeavor to traverse the Suez canal by divesting herself of her armament. Up to the present no ship of such size has traversed the canal.

The interpretation that the departure was directly due to the situation in China is incorrect, as the Associated Press learns today that the date set for the sailing was decided on many weeks ago, and a farewell party was held on board of her previous to the deposition of the emperor of China.

But, though this incident was given exaggerated importance in the afternoon papers, the Associated Press is able to say that those in England most cognizant of the secret aims of Japan, especially those who are fulfilling her naval contracts, have for some time past thoroughly believed she meditated striking a blow at Russia. If this impression is correct, and there is the highest and most conservative authority on which to base it, it is not unlikely that Japan's hand may be forced and her intended coup be attempted before her plans are completed. It may be that Japan only meditates for the present to prevent Russia from accomplishing the designs which various correspondents have credited her with since the change in China's emperor.

Two powerful war vessels built for Japan on the Clyde will soon be ready to sail, while others are under course of rapid construction. Their strength has not attracted much attention, but their importance as international factors can be judged from a statement made to a representative of the Associated Press by one of England's greatest shipbuilders, who declared the vessels building for Japan were the most powerful in the world, and could destroy the best British ships in 15 minutes. Several of Japan's vessels in course of construction would have been completed before now, had not Japan encountered financial difficulties. The British builders would not let the vessels sail until paid for in cash. To accomplish this, Japan induced a syndicate of English bankers to advance the money, and their action has been the subject of a good deal of private criticism in the inner admiralty circles, when it was realized what tremendous naval power Japan was accumulating, and, though Great Britain's strength was not impaired, it was thought inadvisable for British capitalists, to assist materially Japan to become a dangerous rival.

A well-known naval expert tells a representative of the Associated Press that if Japan puts in commission the ships scheduled for service in the near future, she will be ready for war within six months, and can then defy Russia, and as the Japanese and Russian ships at present in the far East compare, Japan's fleet would have an excellent chance of controlling the situation.

ASSUMPTIONIST FATHERS' TRIAL.

The Political Event of the Week in Paris.

PARIS, Jan. 27.—The trial of the Assumptionist Fathers has injected some life into an otherwise prosaic political week. The prosecution of the Fathers is believed to be the beginning of a government campaign against reactionary clericalism, which recently has too openly entered the political arena. The order of the Assumptionists, redoubtable for the ascetic life of its members, which with its large revenues, has permitted the accumulation of great wealth, according to the government supporters, has been mainly used to undermine the republic. They have not accepted defeat, and have decided to appeal against their conviction.

An outburst of protests in the radical press has been caused by what looks like apparent lack of tact on the part of Cardinal Richard, the archbishop of Paris, in visiting the Fathers and expressing his sorrow at their conviction, and thus openly encouraging them. The radicals demand that the government take some action against Cardinal Richard for his overt identification with so-called illegal associations.

A special dispatch to the Temps from Rome says: "According to information from the best sources, the vatican, though regretting the conviction of the Assumptionists, would have preferred that Cardinal Richard had not made the visit by which the enemies of religion might profit. Had Pope Leo been consulted, Cardinal Richard would not have made the visit, which was kind, but not politic."

The nationalist organs denounce the government for its prosecution of political opponents, which, they declare, was the sole motive for the trial.

The result of the trial furnished the most exciting session of the chamber of deputies since its reopening. A string of deputies rose for the purpose of repudiating the statements of the public prosecutor at the trial that they were aided at their elections by the Assumptionists. Scurrilous anathemas were launched at the head of the public prosecutor, and the unfortunate minister of public worship, M. Monis, which resulted in the spectacular expulsion of M. Bernard. Though there have been many exciting scenes in the chamber, this was the first time since the Dreyfus agitation that the military has been summoned to expel a deputy. If this succession of indignant disclaimers was intended to create a wave of feeling against the government in the chamber, it failed utterly, and only elicited a vote, which gave fresh proof of the strength of the government.

Repeated affirmations by a large section of the French press that the British jingoes and the Chamberlain clique in the cabinet had determined to pick a quarrel with France in order to recover the prestige Great Britain had lost in Europe by her reverses in South Africa, and that Madagascar would be the first point of attack, have received what is regarded here as a confirmation in the announcement that the government has decided to dispatch 5000 troops there, and to form a fortified camp and arsenal at Diego Suarez. The government explains that this move has no special significance, but is merely a part of the already announced plan of fortifying the colonies. It is denied that it has any connection whatever with Great Britain.

English designs in Madagascar and her rumored intention to provoke war sooner or later, is not merely a constant cry of "wolf" in Anglophobe papers, but is undoubtedly becoming an article of faith with the mass of the French people.

The composition of the body of troops destined for Madagascar makes an innovation in the system of reinforcing the colonies. Instead of sending French troops, Algerian and Soudanese sharpshooters have been forwarded.

The hatred of Dreyfus has not yet subsided in some quarters. The nationalist press has been attacking the government for having suppressed, illegally, it is alleged, the publication of the judgment of the Rennes court-martial. Marquis de Gallifet, the minister of war, has yielded by having the sentence posted at Rennes this week in the following form:

"Dreyfus, Alfred; volunteer, captain-probationer on the general staff; high treason; ten years' detention and military degradation without interdiction of residence."

The Dreyfusards are very angry at the form of the announcement. The Aurore calls it an upright forgery, because it omits all mention of the extenuating circumstances found before the court-martial and the pardon.

Serious fears are entertained of the failure of the winter crops, owing to the continued bad weather rotting young sprouts.

M. Cambon, the French ambassador at Washington, who is due to arrive in America today, delayed his departure from the date originally fixed in an effort to overcome the opposition to the Franco-American reciprocity treaty, and occupied much time in explaining its terms. But protests against it are coming to the government from chambers of commerce all over France. The agricultural committee of the Seine et Oise denounces the measure as an economic peril, because it is claimed it would destroy the effects of the protection so laboriously acquired for French agriculture in the last few years. The chamber of commerce of Elboef bitterly complains that the government has secured no benefits for French wool and wool products at a time when that industry is so tried by the lack of markets.

DIET OF FINLAND.

Czar's Speech Read, Promising Measures of Relief.

HELSINGFERS, Finland, Jan. 27.—The czar's speech, which was read at the opening of the diet today, explained that it was intended to take measures to meet the recent misfortunes in Finland, the principal of which was the failure of the crops, thus causing large emigration. As a means to check emigration, measures will be taken to place people not possessed of property in a position to acquire land. Questions not connected with these subjects, the speech says, should not be discussed in the diet, and the discussions will raise a doubt as to whether the constitution of Finland is compatible with existing conditions.

After the reading of the speech the presidents of the four estates replied. The representatives of the nobles dwelt upon the importance which the people attached to self-government, which they regarded as a necessity of life.

Russian Movements in Turkestan.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 27.—The Herald publishes an article describing the recent experimental transfer of Russian troops to Kushk, and says:

"Russia is obliged to take precautionary measures, owing to the disturbance of the balance of power in consequence of recent events. It is unjust, therefore, to blame Russia if she is making preparations regarding the long strip between Persia and Afghanistan."

Hot Weather in Australia.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—A special to the Record from Vancouver, B. C., says:

The weather in the vicinity of Melbourne, Australia, has broken all records for heat recently. On New Year's day five deaths occurred from prostration, and as late as 5 o'clock in the afternoon the thermometer stood at 114 in the shade. In the sun the temperature was recorded as high as 156 degrees, and it stood at that point for several hours.

Duke of Teck Buried.

LONDON, Jan. 27.—The interment of the remains of the Duke of Teck took place at St. George's chapel, Windsor, today. It was a simple ceremony. Fifteen members of the royal family were present, the Prince of Wales representing the queen.

Important Development Project.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Jan. 27.—The Noonday Mining Company, of Bohemia, has suspended operations in its mine and mill till about the 1st of April. The plant was shut down yesterday. There is two to three feet of snow at the mine now, which does not seriously hinder the working of the mine. The object in shutting down is stated to be to prepare for a very extended system of work. There is a project in view to tap the old Annie mine 1000 feet below the surface. To do this a tunnel about a half-mile long will be driven. The approximate cost of this will be $5 a foot. This is important to the district, as it will show the value of the ores at greater depth.

Portland People in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—Portland arrivals are registered at hotels here as follows: Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith, at the Grand; W. B. Gilbert, at the Occidental; C. R. Clark, at the Russ house; H. D. Mills, at the Commercial; T. C. Edwards, at the New Western; B. D. Holt, H. W. Aylesworth, at the Winchester; J. W. Farrar, at the Cosmopolitan; Thomas Tuhey, N. Cudman, Miss Holt, J. T. Warren, H. Rue, at the Golden West; Mrs. F. Smith, J. F. Smith, at the Brooklyn.

THE NAVY'S CO-OPERATION

HOW WARSHIPS ASSISTED IN SCHWAN'S CAMPAIGN.

Insurgents at Lake Taal Driven Out of Their Trenches by the Nashville's Guns.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Admiral Watson has cabled the navy department an account of the part taken by the navy in the splendid campaign now being made in Southern Luzon by General Schwan. The admiral's dispatch refers to the engagement, or, rather, series of engagements, which took place along the eastern and southern shores of Lake Taal a week ago. There is no outlet from Lake Taal into the sea navigable for warships, but the Marietta took up a position close to the narrow neck of land which separates the lake from the sea, and threw shells across into the insurgents' defenses. The admiral's account of the affair is as follows:

"The Marietta, with Gheen commanding, on the 19th co-operated with the army in the capture of Taal. Enfiladed the insurgent trenches at about 1600 yards. Lieutenant Price landed with a Colt gun. Gheen reports that a battalion of the Forty-sixth, under Major Johnston, carried the bridge and town, very gallantly facing artillery and rifle fire."

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES, FIRST DISTRICT.

ROBERT G. SMITH, OF GRANT'S PASS.

Robert G. Smith, of Grant's Pass, who has been prominently mentioned as a candidate for the republican congressional nomination in the first district, is not a new figure in Oregon politics. He has taken an active part in every campaign since he became a voter. Only once has he been a candidate for office. In 1892 the populists swept Josephine county, and in 1894 no one could be induced to take the republican nomination for representative. Just when it seemed as if the populists must win the election by default, Mr. Smith accepted the nomination, despite the remonstrances of his friends. In the face of a populist plurality of 300, Mr. Smith entered upon his campaign, and directed his fight against the free-silver craze. When the votes were counted it was found that the entire republican ticket had been elected and the county redeemed from populism. In the legislature of 1895 Mr. Smith gave his support to Senator Dolph and voted for him to the end. He preferred Senator Dolph to all other candidates, because of the senator's firm stand for the gold standard. He held the senatorial contest to be a fight for principle, and that individuality should cut no figure. At this session Mr. Smith was secretary of the republican caucus, chairman of the committee on railways and a member of the judiciary and mining committees. A forcible and ready speaker, he soon acquired a reputation as an orator, and always commanded the attention of the house. In 1896 he was the republican nominee for state senator from his district. Many republicans in the district were anxious for the re-election of Senator Mitchell, but, as Mr. Smith could not work in harmony with them, he withdrew from the ticket.

Mr. Smith, who is 33 years old, is a native Oregonian. He was born at Jacksonville, and has always lived in the state. He was educated in the public schools of Jacksonville, and left school when he was 15 years old. He was admitted to the bar in 1886, and has built up a large practice, in addition to winning the high regard of his brother lawyers. As a political speaker he is among the best in Oregon. His utter rout of "Cyclone" Davis, the populist apostle, is one of the famous contests in Oregon oratory. In his own county he has always stood ready to meet all comers in debate, populists and free-silver leaders preferred. Josephine county is proud of its bright young orator, and will undoubtedly give him its support in the congressional convention.

LATEST NEWS FROM GUAM.

Governor Leary Reports That Conditions Are Satisfactory.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The latest news received here in regard to the condition of affairs in Guam is contained in a report just received by the secretary of the navy from Captain R. P. Leary, United States navy, governor of Guam. The report is dated Guam, December 1, 1899, and is as follows:

"During the past week the epidemic of typhoid fever ashore seems to be waning, and I am pleased to report that nearly all of our men in the hospital are doing well, and that there have been no deaths in the command since the three already reported, but, unfortunately, at this important period, the Yosemite ice machine is again out of commission, and the sick are crying for ice. We have been able to secure an additional force of native laborers to work on the sewer ditches, and the work is progressing favorably, as is that on the evaporating plant.

"I will take this opportunity to commend Lieutenant Leopold for the excellent service that he has performed at this station.

"The Thanksgiving day service on shore at the Roman Catholic church was a great success, and was attended by a larger congregation than has ever before gathered in this island. The entire assemblage seemed to evince a sincere, earnest and devout interest in their first American Thanksgiving day service, and reports from other villages assure me that the day was properly respected throughout the island, all of which is most gratifying to us, as being representative of their cordial and faithful acceptance of the radical change of government.

"It is a pleasure to report that in response to my general order, No. 5, more than 200 people have already enlisted in the ranks of domestic and civil reformation, a small army of children are jubilant and the wedding-bells are yet a-ringing."

THE URDANETTA AFFAIR.

Capture of the Gunboat Described by Two Men Who Escaped.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The navy department has made public reports from Coxswain Green and Apprentice Powers, members of the crew of the ill-fated Urdanetta, describing the capture of that boat by the Filipinos last September. In indorsing the reports Admiral Watson says they show that the little gunboat, under command of the late Naval Cadet Wood, was gallantly defended, and was captured only because she was hard and fast aground. Captain Wilde adds to his indorsement the following:

"The conduct of Mr. Wood and of the entire crew under the terrible fire is praiseworthy to the last degree, and reflects additional luster upon the brilliant record of the United States navy."

Green, in his report, says that the Urdanetta grounded about a quarter of a mile below Betanga, on the Orani river, about 10 o'clock A. M., Sunday, September 17. All hands were sitting around the deck, playing cards or reading, waiting for the tide, when, at 3:30 o'clock, two volleys were fired from the shore, almost raking the deck. Most of the ammunition was below, but at Cadet Wood's order the men manned the guns and smothered the enemy's fire in about 15 minutes. Stone, the man at the Nordenfeldt, had been shot twice when he was relieved by Wood, who had been firing the one-pounder.

Within five minutes Wood was shot through the stomach, Gray had been hit, Stone had his ear knocked off and received another wound in his head. Gray continued to fire a small rifle after receiving his wound. Powers put 15 holes in one man with a Colt gun. The Filipinos were invisible, so the sailors fired where they thought they were. When Wood was hit the Colt gun was red hot, the firing-pins of the one-pounder were broken so that the gun could not be used, one barrel of the Nordenfeldt would not fire, and three or four of the Lee rifles had broken extractors.

Wood revived and ordered out the boat. Green advised that they stay by the ship until dark, but Wood insisted on trying to reach the other bank. The insurgents had reopened fire from concealed places and the bullets were flying like hail when the boat got away, carrying the sailors who could not swim, while those who could hung on to the gunwale. The Filipinos doubled their fire and rushed into the river after the boat. The oarsmen were hit until finally only one was left, so the men started to swim ashore, leaving Wood dead in the bottom of the boat. Stone and Drummond were shot close to the boat and Gray had been killed in the boat. Green was helping Herbert ashore and Powers was trying to save himself.

As soon as they reached the beach, 25 bolo men rushed at them, but their captain prevented them from killing the sailors. They killed the Chinese servant, Wy Lee, and Mitchell was shot while in the water. The Americans were confined in a stone convent for several days and then sent to Porac. Within two days that place was attacked by the American troops, and then the prisoners were carried from one point to another until in the mountains five of them made their escape and reached the American lines.

Month of Philippine Commerce.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The war department has made public the following summary statement of the commerce of the Philippines during the month of July, 1899:

The total value of merchandise imported at all ports in the archipelago during said month amounted to $1,577,530, of which amount articles to the value of $192,122 were imported free of duty. Articles of food and animals imported amounted to $581,022, or 37 per cent of the total; manufactured articles to $479,231, or 30 per cent of the total. The total value of merchandise exported during the month amounted to $1,156,469. Products of agriculture amounted to $1,019,881, or 88 per cent of the total.

New Coaling Station.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Admiral Watson reports this morning that he has taken possession of Isabella coaling station, and established a marine garrison there under command of Lieutenant Long.

The Solace sailed today from Manila for San Francisco, and on the way she will touch at the new coaling station, as well as at Ilo Ilo, Cebu and Guam, and thence returning to Yokohama, will strike across the Pacific for San Francisco. She will carry the bodies of Captain Nichols, who died while in command of the Monadnock, and Captain Ingate, of the marine corps, who died at Guam from a surgical operation.

Burial of Washington Dead.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 27.—George H. Bell, of South Bay, has requested Adjutant-General Fox to attend to the formalities necessary to have the remains of the late Rev. John R. Thompson, chaplain of the First Washington volunteers, sent to Olympia. Mr. Bell is a brother-in-law of Thompson's. The body will be buried in the Masonic cemetery.

Adjutant-General Fox has been advised by the national military department that the remains of the Washington dead, recently arrived at San Francisco, will be sent by express to any designated point in the state, at national expense.

SLOW IN REGISTERING.

Voters Take Their Time About Signing Their Names.

Registration is not proceeding any faster than it did on the opening of the records. About the usual number come in each day and place their names on the books as entitled to vote. Unless citizens manifest more eagerness to win the franchise, there will be no necessity of increasing facilities for accommodating them. However, more of a rush is expected toward the later days. If the vast number of men in the city having ample time to visit the registration office about this time would do so at their convenience, the final rush might be avoided. Clerk Holmes will have to put out the sign, "Come early and avoid the rush," as do some of the enterprising merchants of the city. Up till last night the total registration by precincts was as follows:

Precinct.	No. reg.	Precinct.	No. reg.
1	48	41	69
2	75	42	90
3	53	43	63
4	87	44	58
5	94	45	52
6	87	46	29
7	56	47	61
8	61	48	60
9	78	49	65
10	62	50	55
11	61	51	41
12	39	52	45
13	74	53	21
14	64	54	12
15	79	55	7
16	48	56	3
17	81	57	69
18	40	58	19
19	48	59	14
20	25	60	20
21	36	61	2
22	88	62	28
23	88	63	11
24	75	64	4
25	61	65	5
26	81	66	3
27	24	67	6
28	63	68	8
29	45	69	7
30	51	70	0
31	70	71	2
32	25	72	3
33	30	73	0
34	51	74	0
35	47	75	3
36	34	76	2
37	54	77	8
38	61	78	7
39	67	79	13
40	95	80	7
Total			3341

Old Br'er Kruger.

Salt Lake Tribune.

The New York Evening Post notes by a Pretoria dispatch that President Kruger is writing to his generals of the fight: "I am searching the entire Bible, and can find no other way than that adopted by us." Whereupon the Post thinks that "He seems strangely to have overlooked the passage, 'Or what king as he goes to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with 10,000 to meet him that cometh against him with 20,000? Or else while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an embassage and asketh conditions of peace.'" Possibly Uncle Kruger has been making some figures of his own, whereby he has said: "If one of my Boers can go behind a rock and shoot 10 Englishmen, 30,000 of my Boers can do the same thing; and before that 300,000 are killed, her majesty, Victoria, will be weary and want to make terms." In the old Bible days, if there was any fighting to be done, it had to be hand to hand. In these modern days, with magazine rifles and quick-firing cannon, to use another Bible expression, "The race is not altogether to the swift nor the battle to the strong."

McKinley's Movement Toward Free Trade.

New York Times.

Why does the American Protective Tariff League persist in existing? What does it protect? Certainly not the protective tariff, for that is fast going to the bow-wows. The policy of protection has for years been known as McKinleyism, but Mr. McKinley has not a word to say for it in his message, and he has negotiated reciprocity treaties with several other governments under which foreign commodities will be admitted to this country at rates materially lower than those of the Dingley tariff act. President McKinley and the wisest and most influential leaders of the republicans are feeling their way along toward free trade. They do not go by leaps and bounds, and they have engaged no brass band for the expedition. But none the less surely, and pretty rapidly, too, they are converting the republican organization into a low-tariff party.

How Barre Has Grown.

It was not many years ago that the village of Barre, Vt., was a small country hamlet of a thousand population or so. It is now a city of 12,000 people, and the product of its granite quarries goes all over the United States and to many foreign localities. The supply of stone seems to be practically inexhaustible, and can be mined at comparatively low cost, so that the industry and the city have by no means reached their full growth. It is already one of the three or four leading places in the state, and may possibly outstrip Rutland and Burlington.

A MAIL CLERK'S EXPERIENCE

And What Came of It.

The occupation of a railway mail clerk is peculiarly arduous, and unwholesome, long hours of work requiring the closest attention, nearly always standing, confined in a stuffy car, as well as the continual vibration of rapid motion, make this occupation an undesirable one from a health standpoint.

A railway mail clerk on the Michigan Central, running between Detroit and Chicago, says: "In common with many of my fellow-employes, I suffered for some years from an obstinate attack of piles, brought on, my physicians told me, by my occupation, the close confinement in a car and being obliged to stand on my feet for hours together; the pain at times was almost unbearable, and I was obliged to resort to the use of ointments and salves to give a temporary relief while I got through with my work. I suffered so long from piles that I really had little hope of any such thing as a permanent cure, and although I had very often noticed the advertisement of the Pyramid Pile Cure, yet I never thought seriously of trying it until one day, after suffering more than usual, I dropped into a drug store and bought a 50c package. I tried it that night, and the complete relief from pain and itching was delightful. I expected to be as bad as ever the next day, as this had been my usual experience with pile remedies, but I was agreeably disappointed. I used the Pyramid for some 10 days or two weeks, and for nearly four years have not had the slightest trouble from piles, and consider my cure as little short of marvelous."

The Pyramid Pile Cure is the most popular and successful of any pile cure; it is the only pile cure that is sold by every druggist in the United States and Canada.

Furthermore, the Pyramid Pile Cure has been before the public for nine years, and has been tested time and again by hundreds of physicians and by thousands of pile sufferers, and its remarkable merit has been demonstrated in every form of piles, protruding, itching or bleeding.

A little book on cause and cure of piles mailed free by addressing Pyramid Company, Marshall, Mich.

All druggists sell the Pyramid at 50c for full-sized package.