

RUSSIA'S GREAT FIGHTING MACHINE

In War-Time the Czar Can Put Forth an Army of 7,500,000 Men.

New York Sun.
THE Russian empire possesses the biggest fighting machine in the world in the shape of its army and navy, and there is no other military force of which the world knows so little.

Even the numerical strength of the army is largely a matter of conjecture. As nearly as can be reckoned, the force available for carrying on the earlier stages of a war amounts to nearly 3,000,000. But in case of national emergency this force could be swelled to about 7,500,000 fighting men by the calling out of the Territorial Reserve and the Opolchenie, or Militia.

This vast army is more than twice as large as the population of New York City, more than twice as large as the German Army, which, when mobilized, is estimated to have a total of 3,000,000 trained men. Under the order of October 24, 1902, the strength of the United States Army was fixed at 107,553 men—less than one-seventieth of that of the Russian.

But Russia does not depend upon this immense army alone. She has one of the biggest navies in the world, or, rather, three distinct navies, each with its separate organization and separate base. One is in the Pacific, a second in the Baltic and a third in the Black Sea.

In many respects the Russian Army and Navy differ materially from the forces of other powers. Retention is the keynote of the administration of both services. The secrets of both the army and the navy are carefully concealed, and so are many things not usually hidden by other nations.

Absolute Secrecy Maintained.

For example, the allowance of ammunition for target practice in the Russian Navy has been as large in the past year or two as that in the American Navy. Even this fact is not generally known, and no outsider can tell whether the recent extraordinary efforts to bring the marksmanship of the gun crews up to the highest point of efficiency have been successful.

The scores are not divulged, even the fact that a ship has gone through a course of target practice is concealed. The keen rivalry between ships, so prevalent in the American Navy, is thus impossible, and no Russian vessel could ever enjoy the wide fame of the Alabama, however much she might deserve it. Absolute secrecy is maintained concerning all naval and military maneuvers.

Even cases of individual heroism are similarly concealed, except in time of war. The theory of the service is that every man is equal in all respects to his comrade of the same rank. He is as brave, as efficient, and as loyal.

It is considered bad for the service to allow the limelight to fall upon particular men, however heroically they may have acted. And it is considered to be bad for the men, too, in which belief the Russian administrators show a pretty good knowledge of human nature.

A sailor may jump overboard and rescue his Captain from death in shark-infested waters, or a soldier may dare appalling danger to save the life of a comrade in an engine-room accident. In due course, he will be rewarded and promoted, and throughout his career his superiors will remember the deed in his favor, but it will never become public.

Rewards, promotions and distinctions are announced only in war time or in cases of very exceptional merit, and even in these cases no reference whatever is made to the occasion of the reward or special commendation in any published reports or orders.

No Criticism Allowed.

No criticism of anything connected with the army or navy is allowed, even though it be of a commendatory nature. No officer or enlisted man is permitted to criticize a brother officer or enlisted man, except in the strictest line of duty. Breaches of this rule are most strictly punished, and to it are largely due the harmony and good fellowship of the Russian services.

Any public criticism of the service, or even of any minor department of its administration, is sternly prohibited and heavily punished. This rule, however, of course, in other services, but is often more honored in the breach than in the observance. In Russia it is most faithfully observed. The Sampson-Schley quarrel and the Buller controversy would be equally impossible there.

The Russian naval and military services are compulsory. Their rule being that every male of sound physique shall enter

one service or the other at the age of 20 years. But the recruit is allowed to choose which service he will enter. It might be supposed that this would lead to difficulty, as there might be more men choosing one service than were needed, and fewer choosing the other. But this is not so. The system works well, and helps to make the men contented.

Only the Best Men Retained.

Enlistment is for three years, with the privilege of re-enlistment only upon condition that the candidate has been promoted during his term. In this respect the Russian service differs from most other services.

This peculiar provision has the merit of insuring that all the veterans are picked men, while soldiers and sailors of only average quality are eliminated in due course.

The recruit for the naval service is usually received, after passing his physical examination, at one of the great Russian naval bases—Kronstadt, St. Petersburg, Port Arthur or Vladivostok. After a brief term in barracks there he is sent to a training ship, and thence promoted to a battleship, cruiser or other vessel—the class of ship to which he is being determined by his proficiency, a peculiar feature of the Russian service.

The Russian navy is modeled very closely upon that of England. The Russian navy is modeled on the German. In both cases the examples chosen as the best have been copied to the minutest detail. There is hardly any difference in the day's routine on a Russian and an English man-of-war. The duties of men and officers, the messing arrangements, the stations, the drills, the regulations—all are practically the same.

Discipline is administered under articles of war formulated by imperial ukase. It is far stricter than in the British service, which, again, is far stricter than the American.

Discipline Most Rigid.

All government in Russia is, of course, essentially autocratic, and the spirit is nowhere stronger than in the naval and military services. There is no dissent, content in the Russian army and navy, however much there may be among some grades of Russian civilians.

The reason is that the man in the enlisted ranks lives better, dresses better and has more money to spend than the average peasant of his class in civil life. He has profited materially by becoming a soldier or sailor, in which respect he differs from the enlisted man in most other services.

As for the rigid discipline, it is only what he has always known. The Russian peasant is accustomed to the iron heel from infancy.

As a general rule the officers are liked by their men, and the mere fact that every Russian soldier and sailor refers habitually to the Czar as the Little Father will give foreigners some idea of the intense loyalty which pervades the services.

In the non-commissioned ranks the grades are about the same as in the British Navy, but the men have less authority, receive less pay and have fewer privileges. The pay of a Russian seaman is only 80 kopecks every ten days, a kopeck being about three-quarters of a cent.

Nevertheless, the seaman's mess on the Pacific and Baltic stations compares favorably even with that on American ships, where the sailors are said to be the best fed in the world. The same is measurably true of the Black Sea fleet.

The officers' messes are supported by fixed contributions from all the officers according to their rank, and the British style of dining in the mess is carried out on the larger Russian ships.

"Well Born" Men for Officers.

Eligibility for the commissioned ranks in both services depends upon birth and educational qualification. It is necessary that candidates be well born.

Their parents must have been of noble birth, or members of the government or the civil service, or officers in the army or navy, or—to quote the words of the Imperial ukase on the subject—"persons of substance, who never kept an open store or market." That is to say, the son of a rich merchant would be eligible for a commission, but a trader's son would not.

In addition to the qualification of birth and family, candidates must have passed the final examination in the gymnasium, which is about the equivalent of that for entrance to the higher class of American universities, or the final examination of the best American high schools.

The pay of officers in both services is practically nominal. That of a junior Lieutenant in the navy is 100 roubles a month, about \$20 in American money, as

compared with \$150 a month for the same rank in the American Navy.

Russian officers enter the service for a career, never for a livelihood. Any man with social ambitions in Russia must become an officer of either the army or the navy, unless he be a person of transcendent ability. No father would think of entering his son in the cadet school unless he could give him a suitable income with which to maintain his rank.

In the British navy and other fleets the officers of the higher ranks receive liberal allowances from the government to defray the expenses of the frequent entertainments given when in port, or when forthwith with the warships of other countries. These are no such allowances in the Russian service.

The officers have to pay every cent out of their own pockets, and yet nowhere is hospitality more magnificently dispensed than on a Russian warship. It has become a proverb in all the ports of the world visited by naval vessels.

Skill in Seamanship.

In point of seamanship the Russian naval officer compares favorably with the officer of any other service. There are two good reasons for this.

In the first place, if not better educated, his education has certainly progressed further at the time of his entrance into the Naval Academy at Kronstadt than that of either the English or American cadet; and, in the second place, he is under far more effective compulsion to keep up his studies when absent.

But mere book learning will not take a lad far in the Russian service. No cadet is eligible for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant until he has made a trip around the world in a Russian man-of-war. That is his postgraduate course after he leaves the Naval Academy.

The standard of discipline in the commissioned ranks of both services is similar to that in the armies and navies of other nations, with this striking difference, that off duty there are practically no distinctions of rank among the officers.

In the messroom or at the card table, the junior Lieutenant does not defer respectfully to the Colonel of his regiment or to the Captain of his ship, as he would do in other services. On the contrary, he is half fellow well met with him.

There is a remarkable spirit of brotherhood in a Russian mess, and one officer stands absolutely upon an equality with another. It is this feature of Russian military life which most surprises foreign officers when they dine on a Russian warship or with a garrison mess.

They stare in amazement when they hear a mere boy of a Lieutenant call his Colonel by his Christian name, or even chaff him as he might have chaffed one of his chums at the Naval Academy.

Certain distinctions in the commissioned ranks are peculiar to the Russian Navy and form an interesting link with the past. A boy enters the service as a naval cadet, and the rank which he may be promoted are the following:

Cadet of the navy, junior Lieutenant, Lieutenant of the Navy, Captain of the Navy, Captain of Corvette, Captain of Frigate, Commodore, Vice-Admiral, Admiral and Admiral of the Navy.

These ranks are adopted from the British Navy in the time of Peter the Great and have remained unchanged ever since then. The corvettes and frigates disappeared long ago, but the titles are retained.

Cossack Contingent.

One branch of the Russian Army is totally unlike any force possessed by other civilized powers. It is, of course, the Cossack levy, which numbers 142,000 men. Every able-bodied Cossack is liable to service, without limit of age.

He becomes liable at 15 and the liability does not cease so long as he is able to ride a horse or carry a gun. But only a proportion of the Cossacks serve at one time. The rest have unlimited leave or belong to the reserve.

The Cossack feels the burden of military service more heavily than any other man in the world. At 15 he begins three years' preparatory service in the locality where he dwells.

After that is over he is drafted into one of the three Cossack bans for 12 years' service in any part of the empire. He spends seven years with the colors and five years with the reserve.

After these 15 years of service the veteran might be supposed to have done his duty to the nation. But there is a still further reserve, which comprises all able-bodied Cossacks not included in the other forces. The veteran has to join this body and remain in it until he is enfeebled by age.

The men of this last reserve have to supply and maintain at their own expense their horses, arms, clothing and equipment. Thus a highly important addition to the Russian Army is kept up at the cost of the men themselves.

land their army in Corea, are the odds in their favor or against them? The allied armies before Peking, during the Boxer uprising in 1900, were enthusiastic in their praises of the Japanese contingent; individuals as well as the army were remarkable for their good appearance under arms, the regularity of their movements, the great mobility of their formations, and their extraordinary capacity for enduring fatigue. The military instruction is according to the German code. Perhaps the most attractive features of the Japanese organizations are their commissary, sanitary and hospital departments, which under the trying days before Peking showed them to be on the highest plane of efficiency as compared with the European armies, particularly the Russians.

The weak point of Japan, especially operating against Russia, will be her cavalry, which is numerically insignificant; the horses are small and badly trained; the men are poor riders. In the field, the cavalry has heretofore shown little initiative, does not screen the advance or guard the flanks of their infantry, but seems to hover to the rear, and is altogether of an inferior quality. Japan's artillery, while well trained, and possessing modern guns, is greatly hampered in its mobility by the inferiority of its horses.

On the other hand, the Cossack cavalry is the strongest feature of the Russian army. Their artillery is also excellently trained. To sum up, in the event of a war between Russia and Japan, the advantages to Russia will be in an overwhelming preponderance of men, a most effective cavalry for scouting and follow-up work, a mobile artillery, and a climate to which the men are accustomed. Japan's advantages will be in the sturdiness of infantry, greater personal intelligence of the force, and their superior mobility in the field.

All such plans may, of course, be discounted and rendered futile by the involvement of one or more of the European powers.

Heat of the Planets.

Owing to the high gravitation, the atmosphere of such planets as Jupiter and Saturn is very dense, and so loaded with opaque particles that we cannot see through it to the body of the planet within. But though the body is beyond our scrutiny, we can infer that it is very hot, even at the surface; for if the solar system is formed (as is assumed) by condensation of nebulae, the heat of condensation must be proportionately greater and longer retained in a large world than in a small one. Thus, for the purpose of life on these great planets, the energy radiating from within may be available, and indeed may largely exceed, the energy received from the sun at so great a distance.



HANDSOME EXHIBIT OF MODERN OFFICE FURNITURE



IN OUR CORNER WINDOW WE ARE NOW EXHIBITING A HANDSOME COLLECTION OF MODERN OFFICE FURNITURE. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A COMFORTABLE, UP-TO-DATE OFFICE, IT WILL BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE TO LET US SHOW YOU THE LATEST DESIGNS IN FURNITURE FOR THE OFFICE

ROLL TOP AND FLAT TOP DESKS

To have a comfortable office means to take away one-half of the cares of business. It is our especial care to provide desks that will give comfort for the busy man. No matter what size your office may be we have something to suit your ideas and harmonize with the surroundings. All sorts and conditions of desks from the lowest-priced to the highest grade of mahogany. Handsome desks fitted with all modern conveniences in all grades of golden oak and weathered oak mahogany. Let us put a new one in your office.

AS LOW AS \$22.00

OFFICE TABLES AND CHAIRS

In the modern office much attention is paid to the furnishings. Good impressions are always valuable and especially in business. The day of shabby offices for successful men has long since passed. Doesn't your office need a new table or chairs. We have handsome new designs in golden and weathered oak, especially made for modern offices. We carry a number of handsome rotary and swing chairs in different grades of golden oak. Let us show you how to be comfortable.

STERLING LEATHER OFFICE FURNITURE

Handsome leather furniture is particularly adapted to banks, corporation offices and professional offices. It possesses a dignity of its own and always enhances its surroundings. We are well prepared to furnish the handsomest offices, for we have a complete line of fine leather arm chairs, rockers and lounges. All of our leather furniture carries an absolute guarantee that's worth while. We guarantee the construction, the material, and the leather against splitting or peeling. In fact, we insure it to wear. The guarantee goes with the furniture.

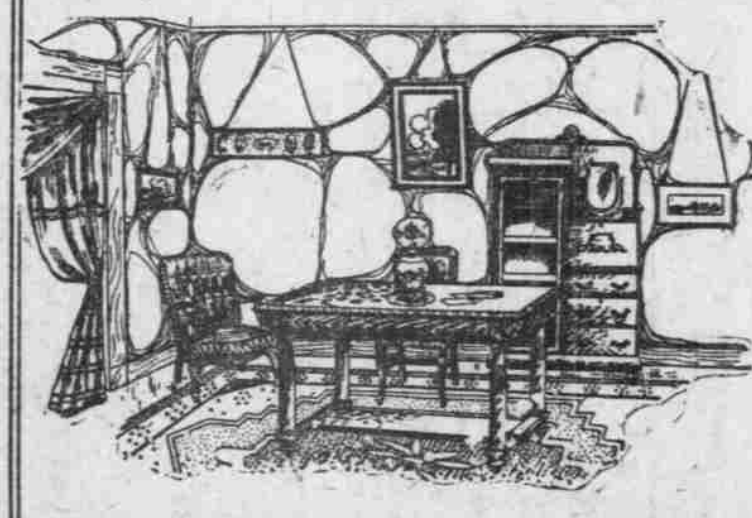
MISSION FURNITURE

We have been obliged to disappoint a number of our customers who wanted "Mission Furniture" for the holidays. Many of them preferred to wait until our new designs arrived. For their benefit we are glad to announce the arrival of some handsome patterns in "Quaint Furniture," made on the purest "Mission" lines. Rockers, Arm Chairs, Morris Chairs, Tables and Stools, in weathered and fumed oak. They won't last long.



SPECIAL SALES TABLE IN DRAPERY DEPARTMENT

For the convenience of our customers we have established a "Special Sales Table" in our Drapery Department. On that table we shall place all our remnants of drapery and upholstery fabrics marked at bargain prices. A look at these goods will repay those in search of remnants for sofa pillow covers, chair covers, etc.



LIBRARY FURNITURE

The library is essentially a room of ease and comfort. No pains should be spared in furnishing this room, and every piece of furniture should be selected with a view of harmony. We make a specialty of medium and high-grade library furniture, the kind that wears for years. Arm Chairs, Rockers, Reading Tables, Desks, Book Cases, Combination Book Cases, in golden oak, weathered oak and mahogany. Sterling Leather Rockers, Arm Chairs and Lounges. If you want comfort, combined with good taste, our furniture will appeal to you.

IF JAPAN AND RUSSIA SHOULD CLASH

Fighting Strength of Each Nation on Land as Well as on Sea.

SHOULD the Russians and Japanese clash in the Far East, as seems at this time to be almost inevitable, the world will want to know what the huge forces are whose impetus will stir the uttermost ends of the earth, and that may not be stayed until there is a world's war, extending into even our own peaceful land.

The Japanese have had an opportunity to show their fighting mettle more recently than their gigantic opponents in the late China War. But the Russians have not lost the admiration of the world, for their fighting qualities, as shown in the Russo-Japanese War, and in the Crimea of a remoter date.

Aside from all the subtle forces that would be considered to the advantage of one or the other of the opponents in such a strife, the soldier and even the statesman will hear nothing that does not array for inspection ships, men and guns.

The Japanese navy, all of which is in striking distance of the seat of war, consists of 12 battleships, 4 armored cruisers, 17 protected cruisers, 4 unprotected cruisers, 3 torpedo cruisers, 4 torpedo destroyers, 77 torpedo boats and 23 ships of the merchant marine, which are available as auxiliary cruisers or transports.

The Japanese land forces comprise 550,000 officers, 23,250 men, 78 guns and 70,250 horses of the regular army; and 11,735 officers, 348,100 men, 116 guns, 88,468 horses of the territorial reserve. This implies a war footing at the beginning of hostilities.

Russia's Navy in the East.

Opposed to this fighting force, the Russians have six first-class battleships, three first-class armored cruisers, two first-class cruisers and one third-class cruiser at Vladivostok; three first-class cruisers, two third-class cruisers, one first-class armored gunboat, and one first-class gunboat, two transports, two third-class torpedo cruisers, and 12 torpedo-boats, at Port Arthur; one third-class cruiser and one gunboat in the Gulf of Kwangtung; one gunboat at Niu Chwang; one first-class armored gunboat at Shanghai; one gunboat at Chemulpo, and one gunboat off the coast of Kamchatka. Two battleships, one first-class armored cruiser, one training ship, and four torpedo-boats are en route to the seat of operations.

The Russian land forces are made up of 60,000 officers, 2,940,000 men and 700,000

horses of the regulars and 700,000 officers and men and 55,000 horses of the reserve.

While the mobilization of the Russian forces have been guarded most jealously from outsiders, and all foreigners have been forbidden the use of the Siberian Railway during the past year, it is known that those forces in the Far East at the present time consist of the First and Second Siberian Army Corps of 20,000 men, 30,000 reserve troops, 135,000 Cossacks of the first levy, 16,000 railway and frontier guards levy, 10,000 men, to which must be added the 240,000 men, to which must be added the Cossacks of the second and third levies and the troops which have been brought from Europe this past summer.

These troops, too, are merely the advance guard of those which may be brought. Although the Trans-Manchurian and Trans-Siberian Railways are still in need of repairs, it is possible to bring troops from Europe to the point in Manchuria within three weeks. It is said that 12 troop trains a day can now be dispatched along the Trans-Siberian road. The Russian troops are trained to every hardship, can stand the intense cold of that latitude, and are certainly as fanatical in their war-making as the Japanese.

The Russians admit that Japan could throw into the field at once an effective force of more than 200,000 men and 900 guns, but do not take into consideration any of territorial army, which consists of over 300,000 men and 1000 guns. Without doubt Japan has an effective armed force of more than 600,000 men on her own territory.

The Battlefield.

For the past three months both countries have been busily engaged in marshaling their forces for an immediate and effective strike when the clash comes. The Russian troops with all their equipment are on the ground which must be fought. They have only to be marched across the Manchurian frontier to occupy Corea, the disputed territory. The Japanese, on the other hand, must be landed in Corea, by way of the Japanese Sea or the Korean Strait. It will be naturally the part of Russia to prevent the landing of its combined naval force in these waters. This means that if there is to be a Russian-Japanese war, it must be waged by a decisive naval engagement. Naval experts are well agreed that in such an event the victory promises to fall to Japan, by reason of the better seamanship, greater experience and the efficiency of its gunners. In this particular, attention need only be drawn to the magnificent fighting qualities shown by the Japanese navy in the late Chinese War, when the whole story was practically told in the first battle in the Yellow Sea.

Admitting that the Japanese are able to

YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD



MORRISON AND SECOND STREETS

MAKE YOUR OWN TERMS