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PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21,

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Russian Warships Off Coast of Japan.

# STEAMER IS GIVEN CHASE

Vessels 'Are Evidently the Vladivostok Squadron.

SEARCH IS MADE FOR CABLE

Czar Will Probably Proceed to the Front in the Spring, to Take Command of the Army.

#### THE WAR SITUATION.

News of a small skirmish at Wiju shows that both armies have thrown reconncitering parties forward to the Talu River. Wije, near the mouth of the river, Hes on the great Corean highway, which passes through Ping Yang, reported to be occupied in force by the Japanese. It is of easy access, ore, from a Japanese base, as well as from the Russian railroad. The Ressians were reported to have a conelerable force of cavalry within close distance of the Yalu, and the present skirmish confirms the reports. It is in cavalry that the Japaness are most deficient, and their loss of a small deat was probably due to this

news that China is sending troops to Kinchau, a short distance by rall from Niu Chwang. The gravity of this movement lies in the large foreign houses at Niu Chwang, where the American Consul has already expe-

SPECIAL WAR SERVICE. NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—The American

A dispatch from Tokio today, says: "Cannonading was heard this morning off Mihonoseki, north of Shimane Penin-

Three unidentified warships appeared off Okuriji and Kutogori today apparently pearching for a cable,

The steamship Tamagawa Maru, which has arrived at Shimoneseki, reports that she was followed seven miles off Pusan by four Russian warships and that the chase was abandoned near Tsushima."

(The Russian ships mentioned are evidently the Vindivostok squadron.)

MAY GO TO FRONT

Will Probably Take Charge of the Land Forces In the Spring. SPECIAL WAR SERVICE

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.-The American's Rome correspondent cables as follows: "It is reported here that the Czar in tends to proceed to the front in the Spring to take personal command of the army.

## FIRST LAND ENCOUNTER.

#### Cossacks Attack Japanese Troops in Corean Territory.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.-A dispatel om Port Arthur today says the first land encounter occurred yesterday, picket of Cossacks attacked a small detachment of Japanese troops on Corean territory. The Cossacks captured some Japanese prisoners, on whom they found mans and papers.

The collision was presumably between reconnoitering parties. A general engage-ment is not anticipated immediately. A special Port Arthur dispatch says the

ing off that port. Reports from Northern Corea say the

oreans are showing a decidedly friendly attitude to the Russians. The Manchurian Railroad is conveying troops without difficulty to the variou

Native reports say that the Chines drates, since the outbreak of hostilities have been displaying much activity in Eastern Asiatic waters as to almost para

BRIGANDS GUARD RAILWAY.

lyze the coasting trade.

Russia Greatly Fears Japanese At tack on Manchurian Line.

SPECIAL WAR SERVICE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.-The Tientsin con spondent of the World cables as follows: "So great is the danger that the Man churian Railway will be cut by Japanese sples or roving bands of Manchurians, that the Russians are paying Manchurian brigands a heavy sum per month to guard the railway."

SUGGESTS ONLY ENDLESS WAR

Russian Journal on Sympathy Great Nations for Japan.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.-The Viede nosti publishes an editorial article on the pride shown in Great Britain and the United States in their pro-Japanese sym pathies, and asks what these will uitimately cost the "cultured West." An swering this question, the paper says: "Aside from the question of the yello

peril, it is hopeless blindness not to see that Russia stands as a barrier between the approaching rising of Asia and old ope, and to desire that this barrier be swept away is absolute imbecility. It is said that Japan represents civilization. The same thing was said in 1866 about Prussia, and it was not suspected that the success of Prusisan arms would be continual source of alarm, and only ended when the Franco-Russian alliano re-established the political balance of Eu

advance of Japan, but it brings to Western nations the idea of endless wars. The East is now an area of European compa tition. What China will do in a week or in months, when her war position is more clearly defined and her neutraltly guaranteed by the powers on the American receipt is one of those fictions which Europe is so used to paying for with a m expensive armed peace. Russian victories will protect the West from the horrors America is trying to keep off by diplo macy. For Russia this heavy cross is its

#### MERCHANT SHIPS ARE WARNED Russian Minister Tells Them to Remain South of Shanghai.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.-The Mints try of Finance has warned the Russian me ships to remain aguith of Shanghal, as the Japanese have a squadon composed of one battleship, two first torpedo boats off Amoy, China, for the A dispatch received here from Harbin.

Manchuria, dated February 20, says the railroad is in working order and that the Japanese who attempted to blow up the apanese bridge over the Sungari River have been hanged. Bands of Chunchus (bandits) have been observed under Japinose leadership and are being pursued Almost all the civillan inhabitants of Harbin have left, and the remainder of the population is quiet. The movement railroad. All of the Japanese laborers on the railroad have also fied, and the Chinese laborers have returned to work after their New Year celebration.

#### WILL ARM VOLUNTEER FLEET Russia Proposes to Have Steamers See Hard Service.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20 .- It is reported here upon good authority, but the report lacks official confirmation, that all the steamers of the volunteer fleet are to be armed.

Grand Duke Alexis and Grand Duke Constantly, uncles of the Csar, have asked His Majesty's permission to go to the front.

It is said here that Vicerov Alexieff nercise general supervision over havel movements in the Far East. a Kutalssoff. War Governor of itsk, has returned to his post to haster, the forwarding of men and war materials across Lake Baikal. A Russian correspondent of the As-

Concluded on Page Three.

He Feels Keenly the Outbreak of War.

# APPEARS LITTLE IN PUBLIC

Sole Recreation Consists in a Morning Saunter in Garden.

SOVEREIGNS WRITE TO HIM

Emperor William Expresses His Sym pathy, and Concludes With Significant Words, "God Is With Us."

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 30.-The Czar, according to those who have access to his presence, feels keenly the outbreak of hostilities and sorrows at the burdens war entails. Since the receipt of the news of the bombardment of Port Arthur, His Majesty has been much occupied with onferences, and has appeared in public only on one or two occasions, to review the departing troops, or to show himself at the window of the Winter Palace to accept patriotic demonstrations. Person who have seen His Majesty say he is look ing sad and careworn, and his well-known acutely the loss of his brave men.

His Majesty's sole recreation now con data in a morning saunter in the gaaler adjoining the palace. The ground is cov ered with snow, but still he walks about nvariably accompanied by five Samoyed logs, which are trained to march in single file behind him. The Czar selects one of dogs to head the procession. When His Majesty addressed some troops a few days ago and admonished them in these words, "Remember your enemy is brave, bold and cunning," he could not disguise his emotion, and his voice shook much. He is grieved over what he con siders to be the treacherous co the Japans

Kaiser Expresses Sympathy,

It is known that the Czar has received at least three personal letters from Eurothy. The potentiaries are Emperor Will-King Christian of Denmark and King Oscar of Sweden and Norway. The letter from Emperor William was brought by Colonel Von Schenk, commander of the Alexander Third Regiment of Prussian Grenadiers, of which the Czar is honorary Colonel, and concluded with the significant words: "God is with us."

The epistle from the Czar's august grandfather, King Christian, is said to be more than an ordinary exchange between e relatives, and the missive from King Oscar is of the friendliest character and contains the warmest assurances for Russia in her hour of trial and for the Czar personally.

Military activity is proceeding on an ever-increasing scale, and all is in readiness for the mobilization of the entire Russian army should that become necessury. In a fortnight 100,000 additional troops will be in Manchuria. Three army corps of Siberian rifles have already been organized, and a fourth soon will be completed. There is also a brigade of Cossack artillery armed with excellent mountain

Stories of privation suffered by the sol- The Yankee's business foothold in Corea. Page diers on the military trains going to the East are grossly exaggerated. Covered freight trucks have been converted into really comfortable cars for the men. The sides are lined with felt, the windows have been cut, stoves set up and the movable shelves used for sleeping are removed in the day time. Each car can carry 40 men, but only 26 are taken. Each Household and fashions, Pages 34-35. man is allowed three-quarters of a pound

CHINA DENIES REQUEST FOR AID Alexieff Presumes Too Much in Ask

ing Troops to Guard Rallway. TOKIO, Feb. 20.—Advices to the Japan-ess government from Pekin say that while at Mukden, Viceroy Alexieft asked the Chinese troops to aid in guarding the railroad, so as to prevent the interrup-tion of traffic. The Chinese refused the request and asked for instructions from

The Chinese government told them to inform Alexieff that as Russia had insisted the Chinese were unable to guard the railway in time of peace, surely Russia could not expect them to guard it in time of war.

France Fears No Japanese Invasion PARIS, Feb. 20.—The Foreign Office here here declared to be absord the report circulated yesterday in New York, alleged to be from Paris, to the effect that 60,000 Japanese troops had been concentrated at the Island of Formoss, with the intention of invading French possessions in the Far East in case of France with Pursua agents James. siding with Russia against Japan.

The Foreign Office also denied the report
that President Loubet intended to visit
the Czar, and added such a visit had not

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Spokane Shippers Combine Against Hill.

# WILL DIVERT THE FREIGHT

Agreement Signed to Ship Only by O. R. & N. Road.

TO FORCE RATE REDUCTION

Merchants Who Pay \$750,000 a Year Boycott Merger Roads--Will Invoke Elkins Law to Obtain Justice.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 20 .- Spokane shippers, who pay to the railroads in freight rates annually \$750,000, met yesterday and combined to throw all their traffic to the O. R. & N. until the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads offer satisfactory rates. The firms represented are members of the Spokane Shippers' Association and will not exceed the Coast rate plus 25 per cent of the return local rate from the terminal points. The resolution adopted was:

Whereas, We know that rates of freight to Spokane from Eastern points should never justly exceed the prevailing rate to terminal points plus 25 per cent of the corresponding pervailing rate from terminal points back to spo-

kane Therefore be it "Resolved, That until such an adjustment of freight fates con be effected without increasing any rates now in effect to Spokane from Eastern points, we agree to give all our business to the O. R. & N."

Firms in the Combine. The following firms signed the resolution and solemnly pledged themselves

to keep the agreement: Childs Bros. & Day.
Holly, Mason, Marks & Co.
Jones & Dillingham.
John W. Graham & Co. B. L. Gordon & Co. Spokane Drug Company. Spokane Paper Company. Crane Shoe Company. Empire Candy Company. Shaw-Borden Company. F. B. Wright & Co. Grote Rankin Company. Boothe McClintock. Best Clothing Company. Cohn Brothers. Griffith Heating, Plumbing & Supply

Company. Spokane Paint & Oil Company. Tull & Gibbs. Miller, Mower & Flynne. White House Drygoods Company, Spokane Implement Company.

Washington Liquor Company.

A canvass of the meeting was taken and the firms present added up their freight rates for the past year at \$756. 000. A committee of seven men was appointed to canvass the shippers of the city, and the association expects to have other shippers join them until the association has \$4,000,000 in freight rates at its command. The shippers present have 17 cars of gods coming from the East now and immediately diverted

them to the Union Pacific by The members are pledged to stick together and the clause in the Elkins law which makes it a felony for either the shipper or transporter to give or take passes, rebates or other conces sions is relied upon to hold them in A committee of three was appointed to co-operate with the committee on legislation of the Chamber of exhibits.

### rce which is working to give the Interstate Commerce Commerce to enforce its decrees.

The movement has grown out of the recent meeting of the freight managers of the Western roads at Chicago, at which every request of the Spokan men was ignored. There is hardly large shipping firm in the city that did not have some complaint laid before that body of freightmen, and they were not only ignored, but in some cases the rate on their goods was actually raised. Rely on Elkins Law.

The association was formed 15 years ago and this is the third concerted attempt that has been made by it to s cure better rates from the railroads, the first being before the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1893. At that time thousands of dollars were spent in a vain attempt to beat the railroads Then the association embarked upon a scheme similar to the one now on hand, but as it did not have the Elkins bill to aid it, it soon went to the wall. The shippers combined and secured a traffic manager to route their goods, but it was not a week before the railroads began to get busy with passes rebates, and in less than six months the association was dismembered. The hope of the shippers now is the Elkins bill

# CAUCUS WRECKS HALL.

Fierce Fight Among Republicans in Seattle's Tough First Ward.

SEATTLE, Feb. 3) .- (Special.)-The enire front of Butnick's Hall was broken out, every window in the building demolshed and doors broken from their hinges in a Republican caucus fight in the First Precinct of the Second Ward tonight. Eight chairmen were swept off their feet at various times during the evening, a coal oil lamp was exploded and shooting unanimously passed the resolution de-manding a transcontinental rate which ening the destruction of the building and endangering the lives of nearly 1000 men who attended the caucus. The fire was stamped out, the burning wick being thrown through a broken window by a ward worker.

For four hours the caucus struggled and ought, the street outside the building beng filled by a mass of voters so thick that street-car traffic on Jackson street was suspended. Though there are but 555 ualified voters in this precinct, more than 500 persons took part in the struggle.

The fight was precipitated by efforts of upporters of H. L. Jaffe, R. E. Fee and supporters of H. L. Jaffe, R. E. Fee and A. Kistler to control the precinct. All are candidates for Councilman. While the struggle inside the hall was in progress, the Fee men had a rump caucus on the sidewalk and elected a slate. Later Jaffe and Kistler compromised and the three slates were nominated. The trouble blew over as quickly as it had arisen. In the First Ward separate caucuses were need in three precincts, William Holt

were neld in three precincts. William Holt fighting the Clancys, who are attempt to bend W of marries with fine by the content of the

WAR CALLS FOR '04 MONEY. Russia Officially Notifies St. Louis She Will Not Participate.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.-Official confirms on of Russia's intention to abandon par-cipation in the Exposition was received day in a cablegram to President Francis from Commissioner-General Alexandrov-sky at St. Petersburg. The cablegram fol-

"Notwithstanding the best of feeling to "Notwithstanding the best of feeling to America and a readiness for participation in the World's Fair, Russian tradesmenthink their patriotic duty is to give the money appropriated for the Exposition to the Red Cross and wounded soldiers. I am going personally as the chief delegate of the Red Cross to the Far East. My sincere thanks for your kind attention to our staff and me personally. My best re-gards to all directors and chiefs."

None of the Russian exhibits has been shipped to St. Louis, but a large railroad. exhibit and a number of other exhibits were in readiness for transportation at St. Petersburg. Four hundred thousand dollars was to have been spent on Russian

All Complaints Ignored.

# Anxious Buyers Run

May Up to \$1.07.

ARMOUR MAKES MILLIONS

Efforts to Keep Prices Down by Selling of No Avail.

#### EXCITEMENT IS EVER INTENSE

Foreign Markets Continue Firm, War Scare is Unabated, and Advices From Grain-Producing Districts Bring Little Relief.

GREAT GAIN IN THREE MONTHS.

May wheat, opening, \$1.02%. High point, \$1.07. Closing, \$1.05%. price, 76c

CHICAGO, Feb. 20 .- (Special.)-With a oar and a bound that was irresistible May wheat today leaped to \$1.07, a jump of 4% cents in 30 minutes, and more milllons were added to the Armour pile, and stuffed into the pockets of the farmers who were wise enough to hald their grain. The wheat pit all day was a scene of excitement and the clamor which arose

of the session until the gong announced Yesterday the excitement was most inuse, when the price reached and crossed the dollar line, but today there were no varying degrees of intensity, and the nerves of every man in the wheat pit were at the highest tension during every minote of the session.

never ceased or abated from the opening

The advance in price seemed to be irresistible. Armour, who for months has been the undisputed monarch of the wheat in a futile effort to hold the price down. but for every bushel sold, there were two

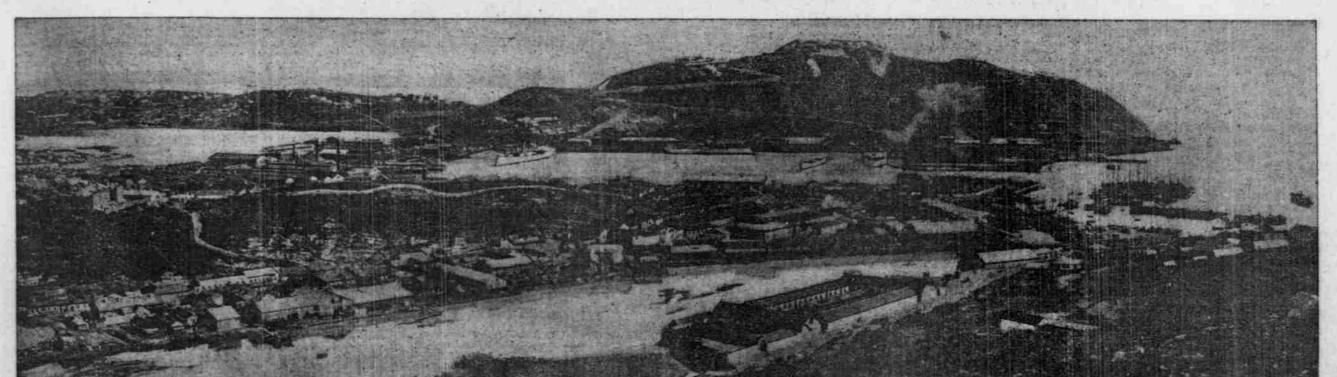
lish markets continue wheat is held there at an unusual premium. The local receipts of wheat have een unusually small, and advices from the grain-producing districts contain lit-

tle promise of relief from those quarters. The new high-record mark was estab-Mc lower to Mc higher at 20%c to Mc Strong Liverpool cables were mainly responsible for the initial advance. There was heavy liquidation of May at the start and the price quickly sold off from \$1.04 to \$1.00%. The principal long offered July freely and that option declined to 93%c.

Later, on light offerings and Monday's holiday, the orice was forced up to \$1.07; tween the sales. July advanced to 96c. Liberal profit-taking resulted in a sharp decline, May dropping back to \$1.65% and July to 94%c. The close was strong with May at \$1.00%, a net gain for the day of 3c. July closed 2%c higher at 55%.

The market hesitated somewhat at the outset and a momentary calm prevailed, but suddenly a buying wave struck the

ALTHOUGH A GREAT STRONGHOLD, RUSSIA NOW CONSIDERS HARBIN A BETTER BASE FOR WAR OPERATIONS



PANORAMIC VIEW OF PORT ARTHUR

-From Leslie's Weekly.