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THE WAR, PAST AND FUTURE.

Russians, we are told, are disappointed, but resolute, says the New York Tribune. They reluctantly admit that thus far the tide of war has been against them, but they recall that every tide has a turning. They have been beaten this year, and there is now no hope of retrieving their losses until another year. It may be next year, or the year after, or one still further in the future. But for the coming of that year of triumph they look with unflinching confidence. For the present there is nothing to do but to wait and to prepare. Port Arthur will probably fall. It does not seem possible that it can hold out through the winter. There may or may not be one more battle in Manchuria. Kuropatkin will retreat at least to Tie-Ling, perhaps to Kirin, probably to Harbin. The Japanese will rest at Mukden. Vladivostok will be icebound. Thus, according to reasonable anticipations, the belligerents will rest until next spring. For no sane man who knows that country looks for a winter campaign in central or northern Manchuria.

What, then, are the net results of the first year of the war? The Russians have lost—or will have lost, when Port Arthur falls the whole of Manchuria up to Mukden, the entire coast south of Vladivostok and the best part of their fleet in Asian waters. They began the war with a boast that they would drive the Japanese into the sea. Instead, they themselves have been driven back from the sea, out of a land of which they had for years had sole and complete control. Gild the fact as you will with the glory of dogged resistance and shrewd strategy that have saved retreat from being rout, the fact remains unchanged. Defeat is defeat and retreat is retreat; and the whole Russian army, under Russia's best general, has been defeated and has been driven to retreat at least a hundred and fifty miles, and perhaps much further. The net result of six months' war with a despised foe has been disaster. No wonder the Russians are disappointed. It speaks much for their manhood and courage that they are not despairing. In rising from the dust and facing the future with confident resolution, Russia vindicates her title to be called a great nation.

But will her confidence be justified next year or in some other year? That will depend upon her ability to put soldiers into southern Manchuria. The task before her will be vastly greater next year than it was this year. For this year her task was purely defensive. She had simply to hold her ground, in fortifications long prepared, against the Japanese attack. Next year her task will be aggressive. She will have to attack the Japanese upon what has become their ground, and drive them from the fortifications in which they will then be settled. Now, there is nothing in war more axiomatic than that the attacking force needs to be stronger than the defensive. But this year the Russians have been weaker than the Japanese; so much weaker that they could not stand against them on fortified ground of their own choosing. Next year, then, they must be far stronger. They must be as much stronger than the Japanese as the Japanese have this year been stronger than they. Can they develop such strength?

It depends largely upon the carrying power of the Trans-Siberian railroad. How many men that road has carried since the war began we do not surely know. But we know that the lowest estimate of Russian troops in the far east when the war began was 50,000, chiefly at Port Arthur, and that the highest estimate of Kuropatkin's strength at Liao Yang was 200,000. Now the original 50,000 are fully accounted for at Port Arthur and Vladivostok and in losses before the great battle at Liao Yang. Kuropatkin's 200,000 men, therefore, on the most favorable possible basis of calculation, were all the railroad was able to carry in six months, and that with commercial traffic suppressed and the whole capacity of the road given to military uses, and with every effort made to hurry troops forward. That result accords pretty closely with the estimate of experts that the railroad, worked to its full capacity, can deliver at Harbin only about 1000 soldiers a day. At that rate, supposing the forwarding of troops could be kept up all winter—of course, it can not—and supposing Kuropatkin now to have 150,000 men left, the second year of the war would open with not more than 350,000 Russians in the field. That the Japanese could have twice that number

there is no reason to doubt. So, then, the second campaign would open with the same disparity of forces as before, but with their attitudes reversed. In the first, a Russian force, on the defensive, was beaten by a larger Japanese force on the aggressive. In the second, there would be a Russian force on the aggressive against a larger Japanese force on the defensive. In such a campaign, it must be confessed, the Russian prospects of success would be poor indeed.

MILLIONS FROM THE NORTH.

The millions in gold which have been brought down from the north have, according to the Post-Intelligencer, assisted materially in the upbuilding of Seattle. Our sound contemporary says: According to the estimate made by Assayer F. A. Wing, the total receipts of the Seattle assay office since its establishment on July 15, 1898, will, by the end of the present year, aggregate the stupendous total of \$100,000,000. The receipts for this year alone will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000, of which amount upwards of one-third will come from American territory in Alaska.

This shows one contributing cause to the great prosperity and expansion which Seattle has seen during the past six years. There has been a steady stream of treasure flowing into Seattle from the far north, and the amount of it which has directly contributed to the wealth of Seattle has been a considerable portion of the whole sum.

Seattle has not merely enjoyed the largest share of the trade of the men who have taken this wealth out of the ground, but it has profited in many other ways. For one thing, a very considerable interest in the great wealth-producers of the north is held here in Seattle. A large share of the summer population of Alaska and the British Yukon is made up of men who claim Seattle as their permanent home and who winter here, spending or investing the proceeds of their summer's earnings.

Still further, as the entrepot of Alaska and the Yukon country, Seattle has appealed to numbers of the fortunate miners who have accumulated wealth in the north, even to those who did not reside in Seattle prior to the opening of the great camps of Alaska and the British Yukon.

These various influences have contributed toward keeping in Seattle, as the place of permanent investment, the greater part of the wealth created in the far north, represented by the steady streams of gold which pass through the assay office at this place.

The result is seen in the growth of the city, the great blocks of new buildings which have gone up within the past few years, the expansion of every industry; and more than all, in the enviable financial situation which Seattle occupies, with abundance of capital of its own for all legitimate business purposes.

THE SONG OF THE SWORD.

Says Mr. Hayashi, a distinguished citizen of Japan: "Today we Japanese have battleships, torpedoes, cannon. The China seas redden with the blood of our killed and of those we kill. Our torpedoes roar, our shrapnel shriek, our cannon breathe slaughter, and we die and are the cause of death. And you occidentals say to us, 'You have won your rank; you have civilized yourselves.' Centuries upon centuries we have had artists, painters, sculptors, philosophers. In the 16th century we had published in Japanese the fables of Aesop—were we then barbarians?"

This with a mysterious oriental smile—a little sad, a little sarcastic.

An unsuccessful effort was made yesterday to state in these columns that, under the old method of making nominations, certificates of nomination of convention candidates were required to be filed 30 days before the day of the election, while nominations by petition could be filed up to within 15 days of the date of the election. The intent of the law was to permit nominations by those dissatisfied with the selections of conventions—which is all that could possibly be claimed for the direct primary farce. A very material portion of the article appearing yesterday was omitted, with the result that the misstatement appeared that candidates of conventions were, under the old law, allowed to within 15 days of the date of the election to file their certificates of nomination.

It appears that the thing which decided the appointment of Earl Gray as governor general of Canada was that he had not married an American girl.

Monsieur de Paris, the guillotine operator, is said to have taken his office very seriously. We suspect that his patrons also felt that way about it.

Thousands of federal employes would probably be glad to contribute to the campaign funds if the law did not prohibit campaign assessments.

It would be easier to make the tariff an issue if the two big parties did not hold practically the same views on the subject.

New York republicans are figuring on the up-state vote and expect to profit some by the down-Hill vote.

BASEBALL SCORES.

Pacific Coast.

At Seattle—Portland, 5; Seattle, 6.
 At San Francisco—Oakland, 3; Los Angeles, 2.
 At Tacoma—San Francisco, 2; Tacoma, 11.

Pacific National.

At Boise—Spokane, 7; Boise, 9.
 At Salt Lake—Butte, 1; Salt Lake, 3.

Football Results.

At Philadelphia—Pennsylvania, 6; Pennsylvania State College, 0.
 At New York—Columbia, 10; Union College, 0.
 At Stanford University—Stanford, 34; Pensacola naval cadets, 0.

Ashland Iron Works Burned.

Ashland, Ore., Sept. 24.—The Ashland iron works was burned tonight, with a loss of about \$10,000. The fire broke out about 8 o'clock. It started between the foundry and the machine shop. The cause is unknown. Insurance of \$6500 was carried.

Killed Four, Then Himself.

Aurora, Sept. 24.—J. H. Palmer shot and mortally wounded W. J. Utile and his three children tonight, and then killed himself. The children were instantly killed. No cause is stated for the crime.

Chief Clerk Chance Named.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Postmaster General Payne today delegated Chief Clerk M. O. Chance to represent the postoffice department at the Lewis and Clark exposition.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

Has world-wide fame for marvelous cures. It surpasses any other salve, lotion, ointment or balm for cuts, corns, burns, boils, sores, felons, ulcers, tetter, salt rheum, fever sores, chapped hands, skin eruptions; infallible for piles. Cure guaranteed. Only 25c at Chas. Rogers', druggist.

Pop Convention a Frost.

Boise, Sept. 24.—Only seven men were in attendance at the so-called state populist convention. It is understood they selected a ticket, which will be announced tomorrow.

Ex-Policeman Suicides.

Tacoma, Sept. 24.—Desperate because of unrequited love, Arthur Hewitson, a former member of the north-west mounted police, shot himself today.

Fearful Odds Against Him.

Bedridden, alone and destitute. Such, in brief was the condition of an old soldier by name of J. J. Havens, Versailles, O. For years he was troubled with kidney disease and neither doctors nor medicines gave him relief. At length he tried Electric Bitter. It put him on his feet in short order and now he testifies: "I'm on the road to complete recovery." Best on earth for liver and kidney troubles and all forms of stomach and bowel complaints. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist.

Notice to Taxpayers.

The county board of equalization will convene at the county clerk's office on September 26, 1904, and continue in session daily thereafter for a period of one week, for the purpose of publicly examining the assessment roll for the year 1904 and correcting all errors in valuation, description or quality of land, lots or other property, and all interests are notified to appear at the above time and place for the purpose of lodging objections, if any there be, to said assessment.

T. S. CORNELIUS,
 Assessor of Clatsop County, Oregon.
 Dated Astoria, August 29, 1904.



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