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JAPS ADVANCING

Draw Net Closer about Beleaguered Fortress.

ADMIRAL TOGO WITHDRAWS SQUADRON

Will Not Render Aid as Freely as Heretofore.
Being Convinced That Enemy's Ships are Almost Incapable of Resistance.

Chefoo, Sept. 30.—The news received from Port Arthur continues to show a steady, if slow advance of the Japanese upon the Russian fortifications. Day by day the remoter positions of the beleaguered fortress are being taken by the Japanese, and that its fall is only a matter of a short time is the general belief here. The number of Chinese refugees arriving here increases constantly, and this is taken to bode no good for the Russians.

The last of the Chinese to arrive from Port Arthur report a still further advance by the Japanese. They assert that several of the most important positions held by the Russians, farthest from the central fortress have been taken by the Japanese, the latter inflicting considerable loss upon the Russians. The Japanese had tunneled approaches to these positions and finally, with the help of mines, made their way within the fortifications. The Russians were taken by surprise and were able to offer little resistance. Finding they were unable to hold their own against the Japanese the Russians retreated, leaving their dead and wounded behind them.

When the Japanese attack was discerned by the other Russian forts they at once opened fire, and at last accounts this was still being maintained. It is considered doubtful whether the Japanese will be able to retain possession of their newly acquired positions. The greater portion of the Japanese fleet has returned to the Japanese base in the Eliot islands, the Japanese commander having become convinced that the Russian vessels within the harbor of Port Arthur are almost incapable of further resistance and of making any sortie into the open sea.

ACT OF VANDALS.

Oil Paintings of Czar at St. Louis are Mutilated.

St. Louis, Sept. 30.—When the Russian exhibit in the varied industries building at the world's fair was opened today it was discovered that several valuable oil paintings of Emperor Nicholas had been torn from the wall and mutilated by some unidentified person or persons.

Another portrait of the emperor, a handsome and valuable panel, done in colored silk, had been torn from its support and subjected to the greatest indignity. The oil paintings were torn and there were marks showing that the pictures of the emperor had been stamped upon.

The vandalism was reported at once to the exposition authorities, and an investigation ordered. Every effort is being made by both the exhibitors and the world's fair authorities to discover the guilty person or persons.

LAND FRAUDS ALL RUN DOWN.

Agent Greene Is Sure Oregon Cases Will Result in Conviction.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Special Agent A. R. Greene, who has been Secretary Hitchcock's trusted lieutenant in running down land frauds in Oregon, is in Washington, conferring with the secretary. Discussing Oregon's affairs, Mr. Greene said:

"We believe we have finished up that land fraud business in Oregon. We have the men responsible held under indictment and it is a safe prediction that there will be some hot news out of Portland within the next month or two, when the trials commence."

After describing the methods of the fraudulent operators, Mr. Greene added:

The usual thing happened. One member of the gang did not think he was getting his fair share of the profits and gave the thing away.

Officer Is Assassinated.

Geneva, Switzerland, Sept. 30.—Word has been received here that Colonel Bikoff, commander of the Russian guard on the Turkish frontier, has been assassinated. Colonel Bikoff recently helped the Turks in an attack upon Armenian revolutionists, in which an Armenian priest, bearing a white flag, was killed as he approached the Turkish troops. Following the attack upon the Armenians, Colonel Bikoff permitted the Cossacks, who had joined the Turks to pilage and mutilate the corpses of the Armenians.

Japan to Borrow Again.

Tokio, Sept. 30.—The government has decided to float another domestic loan of \$40,000,000, on conditions similar to the last. It is probable that the conscription law will be amended, increasing the service in the reserve five years, and making the regular reserve service total 17 years and five months. This means a large increase in the strength of the army.

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