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WAR IN THE FAR EAST MASKED MEN KILL SHEEP NEW BANK FOR LAKEVIEW

Japan Sinks Two Russian Warships, Captures Officers and Men and Fires on Port Arthur.

News reached Lakeview Sunday by wire that war between Japan and Russia had been declared, and that a battle had been fought which resulted in the sinking of two war vessels by the Japanese. The following dispatches confirm the first report.

special to The Examiner.

LONDON, February 7.—Cable dispatch to the Associated Press.—At 11 o'clock this morning the Japanese squadron consisting of fifteen battle ships and cruisers attacked Point Arthur. The Russians suffered most, having two officers wounded, nine men killed and forty-one wounded. One Russian battleship and one cruiser each had holes knocked in the side below the water line. The forts were also slightly damaged. The engagement lasted an hour, Port Arthur being damaged by fire slightly.

Another dispatch of same date from Tokio gives practically the same report as follows:

Tokio reports that the Japanese fleet defeated two Russian warships. The battle began at 11 a. m., and lasted four hours, so the report says. The smaller Russian ship was sunk while the large one was set on fire and hopelessly destroyed. A portion of the crews escaped to the shore where they were captured. Another report says that the Russians surrendered without fighting. The Russian losses in the fleet were two officers wounded, nine men killed and forty-one wounded.

THE CAUSE OF QUARREL.

A good many persons seem to be ignorant of the physical and political facts that are precedent to and involved in the impending war between Russia and Japan says the Oregonian in a recent editorial. Japan is an island empire whose 147,000 square miles of area are inhabited by about 45,000,000 of people. Japan disputed with China the question of control of Corea, a peninsular country on the mainland, once tributary to China. Corea has an area of 85,000 square miles inhabited by about 11,000,000 of people. Japan desired to colonize the overflow of her people in Corea, but China objected to any Japanese jurisdiction in Corea, and so China and Japan went to war in August, 1894. Japan was quickly victorious, captured Port Arthur and occupied the whole Liao Tung Peninsula. Russia saw her chance and promptly interfered to save China from spoliation, and was supported by Germany and France. Great Britain declined to interfere, so Japan was forced to surrender Port Arthur and evacuate the Liao Tung Peninsula and content herself with the payment of a money indemnity, which China paid through a foreign loan floated in Europe through the help of Russia. All this took place in 1895. Russia, as compensation for her intervention to save China from severe loss of territory to Japan, obtained the gift of Port Arthur, a fortified seaport, as a terminus for a railway connection through Manchuria with the main line of the Trans-Siberian Railway, whose terminus at Vlad-



THE LATEST PICTURE OF RUSSIA'S CZAR.

A monarch of strange contradictions is Nicholas II, the Russian autocrat. Although he was the originator of The Hague peace tribunal, his double dealing in China over Manchuria and his tacit approval of the persecution and slaughter of Russian Jews are hardly in harmony with his public peace propaganda.

vostok is more or less icebound in winter.

Had Japan in 1895 succeeded in her purpose to annex Port Arthur and the whole Liao Tung Peninsula, she would have shut in Russia's face and prevented her from gaining an entrance to Chinese waters. She would then have gathered Corea and China under her fostering care and would have been in a position to resist the encroachments of Europe. But Russian statesmanship interfered successfully to prevent the arrest of the expansion of Russian empire on the Pacific. Germany extracted her compensation from China in her occupation of Kiao Chou Bay, in the Province of Shan Tung. Japan since 1895 has been persistently getting ready for a settlement with Russia. Japan must expand; she was forced to let go of the mainland of China in 1895, and so she seeks to settle her overflow in Corea, which for centuries was under the dual guardianship of China and Japan, now the influence of Japan predominating over Corea and then that of China. To the extinct Chinese influence Russia has succeeded, and the Emperor of Corea is a mere puppet who dances sometimes in obedience to the hand of Russia and then to that of Japan. Japan controls the railway from Seoul to the seaport of Fusan, and Japan is insistent that Russia shall have no seaport in Corea and shall not colonize Corea. Japan places her demand upon the ground of self-preservation; that without expansion her empire must die of repletion and decay, and that without marine control of the coast of Corea Japan cannot defend herself from naval aggression.

On the other hand, Russia is in Manchuria because she was granted a concession or right of way for a railway from the Trans-Siberian line to Port Arthur. Nominally China is still sovereign in Manchuria, for it is under treaty with China that its ports have just been thrown open to the United States. Nevertheless, Russia will always claim the

right to occupy Manchuria with her troops in sufficient numbers to protect the railway and its traffic. For this reason, if for no other, Russia is sure soon or late to be the real ruler of Manchuria. Russia naturally does not want to give Japan unqualified control of the ports of Corea, because that would make it possible to interfere with the naval communication between Vladivostok and Port Arthur. These facts explain why Japan and Russia are drifting into war; they are both anxious for unrestricted expansion. Japan must colonize her overflow in Corea or suffocate in time, and Japan must hold the coast line of Corea to protect her own shores from ultimate naval aggression. Russia in her vast scheme of Siberian development must have Port Arthur to obtain supplies by sea for some years to come, until her Trans-Siberian Railway is enlarged and improved into a railway line of supply of ample capacity.

Russia desires to control Corea so that her line of naval communication between Siberia and Port Arthur cannot be broken, and because she does not wish a possible hostile Japanese invasion of Manchuria from Corea. When two boys want the same thing and cannot agree on terms of purchase or peaceful barter, they are quite apt to acquire a title with fists and heels, and it looks as if Japan and Russia would soon or late go to war. Japan, even if victorious in the first rush, could not apparently carry the war into Manchuria and oust Russia from that province. Russia would only pull herself together and renew the onset. Napoleon at St. Helena said that "Russia is the power that marches the most surely and with the greatest strides toward universal domination." Russia's weakness is her navy, and Great Britain, if she saw fit, could force Russia to a settlement with Japan by threatening her with her Pacific squadron. Russia's fleet is comparatively small, and it cannot be quickly increased. Left to their own devices, Russia would soon

Guy McCune Loses 2,300 Head at Hands of Parties Unknown--Shot and Clubbed to Death

The report last week that 3000 sheep had been slaughtered at Christmas lake on the 3d inst by five masked men, has been partly confirmed. In fact, Guy McCune the owner, who lives at Silver Lake, and who went out to investigate the affair, returned, having found 800 alive out of the band of 3000 head.

It appears that the cattle men of that vicinity, which is understood to lie partly in Crook and Lake counties, drew a dead line, and warned sheepmen not to cross it with their sheep under penalty of having their bands destroyed without mercy. Whether McCune or his herder was aware of this order or not, is not known.

The particulars of the affair are best given in the Silver Lake Oregonian as follows:

The sheepherder for the McKune sheep came in from the sheep camp near Christmas Lake yesterday (Feb. 3) bringing the startling news that the camp had been visited by five masked men the night before and the larger part of the band of sheep were slaughtered.

The five masked men were all heavily armed and proceeded to do their work in a deliberate way. The herder was first taken care of and while one man guarded him the other four proceeded with their part of the work.

The sheep had been corralled for the night and were easy to get at. They took the night for their work, using knives, clubs and guns in the wholesale slaughter. With the approach of day took their departure with the parting injunction that other sheep using that range would be treated in a similar manner unless they were moved soon.

They had done their work well and only a small remnant of a band of over 3000 sheep were left. Upon receipt of the news Guy McCune came to this place and telephoned Sheriff Dunlap who will make a thorough investigation of the affair.

While only a meagre account of the killing can be had at this time enough has been learned that the killing was done by five masked men and certain parties are suspected and startling disclosures are expected to take place in the near future.

The cause for the killing is attributed to the fact that the sheep were on range used by cattlemen.

While the amount of sheep reported killed may be over estimated it is a hard loss to Mr. McCune and he will leave nothing undone to hunt down the parties who done the killing.

A big ten-days rabbit hunt was organized by the people of the west side in the vicinity of the Union School house last week, which will be terminated tomorrow. Sides were chosen, with about 30 on each side, and any kind of gun or weapon can be used. At the conclusion of the hunt, and after the scalps have been counted, a big dance at Union School house will terminate the affair. A basket supper will be served, and everybody is invited to go and have a good time.

wear out Japan, but with Great Britain for a naval ally Japan would rule the sea and win the day.

A First National Bank With Capital of \$25,000 to be Started Some Time This Year.

A dispatch from Washington to the Oregonian under date of Feb. 4th says: The Controller of the Currency today approved the application of A. McCallen, L. L. Mullt, C. H. Vaupel, G. F. Billings and F. J. Farlow to organize the First National Bank of Lakeview, Or., with a capital of \$25,000.

While there has been talk of a new bank being started in Lakeview for several years past, it was not generally known that the enterprise was a thing of certainty. The organizers are all well known business men of Ashland, and Mr. McCallen, of course is well known here, having been in business in Lakeview for many years; served as county treasurer for 15 years, and was cashier and stockholder of the old Lakeview Bank from the time it started until it was sold to the present Bank of Lakeview.

It had been reported that Postmaster Wilcox would be interested in the new bank, and would probably be the cashier, but upon inquiry, he disclaimed any knowledge of the enterprise, and was not aware of what had been done until the above dispatch was shown him. However, the proposition was talked of last year and he was offered this position, and this is probably where the supposition originated from.

It is understood that a substantial building will be erected upon A. McCallen's lot opposite Bailey & Massingill's, now occupied by Cloud's soda works.

A great many approve of this new enterprise, and as the move indicates the amount of business that is transacted in Lakeview, it will no doubt be a help toward building up this county. The gentlemen at the head of it are banking men, and are familiar with the business of this country, and certainly know what they can do.

Oregon Cattlegrowers.

The Oregon State Cattlegrowers' Association was formed in Portland during the week of the National Live Stock Convention.

William Hanley, of Burns, was elected president; William Metcalfe, of Ontario, first vice-president; C. F. Fulton, of Wasco, second vice-president; R. N. Stanfield, of Pendleton, treasurer, and Grant Mays, of The Dalles, secretary.

Two committees were formed, one on constitution and by-laws, composed of George Owens, of Ashland; R. N. Stanfield, of Pendleton; L. Sitz, of Burns; W. L. Gibson, of Ontario; F. O. Bunting, of Lakeview; J. McDonald, of Wallowa, and Lee Wigle, of Prineville.

An executive committee, one member to a county, was elected.

The ultimate effort of the association is to protect the general interests of cattlemen, to have committees that will be able to speak for the cattle industry to the railroads, the Legislature and the packers. The first thing that it will do is to establish an open market at Portland and handle it in a manner that will give the smaller purchasers of cattle an equal advantage with the bigger institutions.