

WAR HAS ITS SURPRISES.

Unexpected Results of Conflicts Between Great Nations Have Often Come to Pass.

What novelty or what surprise will this east Asian war produce? Here may be none, yet the chances would seem to be that one will be forthcoming, as in each of the many modern wars, says the New York Tribune of recent date. Napoleon surprised all Europe with the flexibility of his military organization and the celerity of his movements. The war of 1812 surprised the world with an amazing series of sea victories, the improved navigation and the sailing of frigates. Our civil war re-organized naval warfare with ironclads and torpedoes. The Austro-Prussian war of 1866 brought forward the perfected breech loader, while the great Franco-German war surprised the world with the deadly potency of rapid-fire artillery. The Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905 (illustrated at the top of the page) surprised the world with the thrusting legless tank to beat it by sea and to repel with its own machine guns the overwhelming majority of the Russian army. The war showed the efficiency of smokeless powder and long-range arms, and the need of close formation in battle and great mobility of troops.

The present war ought, we should think, to teach us some new lessons. The value of the torpedo, the aeroplane and the torpedo boat, it should be more accurately demonstrated than ever before. Whether the submarine boat will be used and its efficiency ascertained is not yet known. Wireless telegraphy had its first opportunity of service in war. There is also a rare chance to compare the relative values of the power and of land power. Nor should we overlook the fact, on the other hand, that the richest of civilized nations and the first of Asiatic nations to enter the charmed circle of the "great powers" is for the first time to show its capacity in a great war, and, on the other hand, that the European power which is of all most populous, and which has by far the largest army, is now to show whether its military efficiency is commensurate with its physical bulk.

Already there have been some surprises. The Russians were surprised at Fort Arthur. The world has been surprised at the readiness and aggressive energy of the Japanese and at the apparent unreluctance of Russia for a contest for which she was supposed to be particularly well prepared. But all these things are merely open questions. The real work of the war is not yet begun. When it is well under way and by the time it is completed what surprises will the world have had and what new lessons in the most terrible of the arts shall we have learned?

The bank clerks of England are planning the formation of a union in order to secure an increase in wages, which virtually condemns the clerks to "cellarage, lodgings and sixpenny lunches" for life.

In China spurious coin may be lawfully manufactured when it is intended to be placed in the coffins of the dead. The Chinese believe that these bad coins make the dead just as happy as good coins would.

A Birmingham jewelry firm is said to be engaged upon the manufacture of a magnificent cigar case for the shah of Persia. On the top are portraits of the shah's eight sons. The total cost will reach nearly \$15,000.

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The Canadian maritime board of trade recently passed a resolution, requesting the government to place such restriction on manufacturers as will compel them to mark plainly all woolen fabrics with the proportions of pure wool and adulterations contained in them.

It is said that our American Indians were never so good at bearing pain as the aborigines of Australia. The Australians tell a story of a famous old chief who walked 60 miles with a spear sticking through him before he could get anyone to pull it out.

Willard Duncan, the XL superintendent, spent a few days in Alturas last week, looking after the interests of that company. Willard says everything looks fine and he is expecting to get the cattle through in good shape.—New Era.

Mrs. Electa M. Eggleston is the second woman in Massachusetts to be nominated for state representative, having been chosen by the prohibitionists of the first Hampshire district. The first woman so named was Mrs. Fanny Clary of Williamsburg.

Madoc county gave Roosevelt a large majority. Out of 895 votes Roosevelt received 554, a majority of 213, not quite so large as Lake gave, but sufficient to demonstrate the president's popularity, even in a democratic community.

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