

STARTLING DISCOVERY AT PORT ARTHUR.

Japanese Said to Have Laid Mines to Blow Up Fortifications.

Reported From Tien Tsin That Japs BombarDED Port Arthur Three Days in Succession.

New York, March 5.—The New York Journal prints a special today from Tien Tsin stating that the Japanese bombarded Port Arthur at intervals Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the fleet steaming by the fortifications at a distance of seven to fifteen kilometers. No statement of the execution done by the bombardment is given.

READY TO BLOW UP PORT ARTHUR.

Harbin, Manchuria, March 5.—A dispatch from Port Arthur this morning informed Viceroy Alexieff that while the Russians were placing mines under the fortifications at that place so that they might blow them up and destroy them in case of their capture by the Japanese, they discovered mines placed there already by the Japanese, which were ready to be exploded at any moment.

Vladivostok Wednesday, March 2, via St. Petersburg.—According to information received here 40 Japanese transports, escorted by the entire naval fleet, have been energetically landing troops in Corea at Fusan and Chemulpo. It is estimated that fully 100,000 men have disembarked, and it is supposed that an immediate advance into northern Corea is contemplated.

From the fact that the Japanese fleet is thus employed it is felt that no immediate attack upon Vladivostok or Port Arthur will be made.

The reported landing of 2,500 Japanese at Song-Chiu, Plaksin bay, on the east coast of Corea, has been confirmed.

The enrollment of volunteers is proceeding with enthusiasm at Vladivostok.

London, March 5.—Little change in the far eastern situation is reported this morning. It is apparent that the Japanese are busily engaged in transporting their forces into Corea, and this work is being facilitated by the enforced inactivity of the navy.

According to the Sebastopol correspondent of the Daily Graphic, Admiral Skrydloff has learned privately from Port Arthur that the Russian battleship Retvizan lies in such a position as to block effectually the exit of battleships from the harbor, the passage being practically only for cruisers.

The correspondent adds that Russia's new battleships now building on the Baltic will not be ready for active commission before the end of August.

The Japanese official who has charge of Japan's financial and commercial interests in England declares that his government foresaw the possibility of coal being declared contraband of war, and that it has been collecting large stores of Welsh steam coal for years, so that today it has a supply sufficient for the needs of the navy for years to come.

Paris, March 7.—It is reported here on apparently good authority that the Egyptian Government has decided to close the Suez Canal against the passage of all warships of belligerents. If the report be true, it will be a serious obstacle to Russia in case it is decided by that power to send additional warships to the seat of war in Chinese waters.

RUSSIAN DESERTERS SHOT.

Tien Tsin, March 7.—Thirty Russian sailors who attempted to escape from Port Arthur were captured after a short pursuit and were shot by order of the commanding general.

Tokio, March 5.—Japan addressed a note to the Powers today in response to the recent communication from Russia. The note has not been published here. Its contents are unknown.

Russia's various communications to the Powers, attacking Japan for its conduct of diplomatic negotiations before their rupture, for its attack upon Russia without declaration of war and for its alleged violation of the neutrality of Corea, have been received in Japan largely in the spirit of amusement. The Japanese resent what is alleged to be a deliberate attempt to place them in a false position regarding certain incidents, but in the main do not take the correspondence seriously.

Responding to the charge of violating the neutrality of Corea, they point to the action of Russia in Manchuria, where thousands of troops were assembled long before a diplomatic rupture occurred. They say that they are fully prepared to accept the judgment of the Powers on a comparison of their course in Corea, where they landed troops only after a state of war existed and upon the written permission of the Emperor of Corea. They deny that Chemulpo was a neutral port after the Japanese landed on February 8, but whether it was neutral or belligerent Russia began hostilities there. When the Russian gunboat Koritz steamed out of the harbor of Chemulpo on the afternoon of February 8 she opened fire on the Japanese squadron, making the opening shot of the war. The Japanese guns did not respond, but the Japanese torpedo boat destroyers answered the fire and discharged two torpedoes before the Koritz retired. The Japanese are confident of the justice and strength of their original position in the integrity of China and the fairness of their proposals during the negotiations. They feel fully justified in commencing hostilities after breaking off diplomatic relations and serving notice of their intention to take independent action. They are sure their recent assurances that they had no intention of taking possession of Chinese territory and would guarantee the integrity and independence of Corea will be accepted by the Powers.

RUSSIA'S WAITING PLAN.

St. Petersburg, March 5.—Although most of four weeks have elapsed since the Japanese first attacked Port Arthur, here the war is considered hardly to have begun. Heavy land

fighting, upon which the fate of the campaign depends, is not expected much before the end of April. By this time Russia will have in the field, exclusive of the large army of men required to guard the railroads, four army corps, each with a cavalry division and an artillery brigade. All that has happened so far, or is going to happen until these forces are in the field, is considered, according to the Russian view, to be nothing more than the prologue to the real drama.

The Russians are determined to defend Port Arthur as heroically as they did Sebastopol. A large garrison will be retained there. Ten thousand men are as good as 100,000 for defence while the more men the more months to feed.

There are enough provisions now to last for eight months. In addition there will be a division of Cossacks, with mountain batteries on the peninsula to oppose landings and harass the enemy if they succeed in investing the city.

Viceroy Alexieff still retains his headquarters at Mukden, through which three thousand to four thousand soldiers are passing daily to the positions which the main armies will occupy.

The Russian plans do not contemplate taking any chances on the score of inferior numbers. By sheer weight of men and guns, if nothing else, when the proper time arrives, Russia counts on overwhelming the Japanese. FURTHER RETREAT OF RUSSIANS.

Seoul, March 5.—The Russians, who recently retired from Anju to Pak-Chen are reported to have moved northward from the latter place.

Vladivostok, March 5.—A fleet of five Japanese battleships and two cruisers appeared off this place at 1.25 o'clock this afternoon and bombarded the town and shore batteries for 45 minutes.

The fleet approached from the direction of Askold island at the east entrance of Ussuri bay and about 32 miles southeast of Vladivostok. Entering Ussuri bay the enemy formed in line of battle but did not approach to a closer range than five and one-third miles. They directed their fire against the shore batteries and the town, but no damage resulted as most of their 200 lyddite shells failed to burst.

The Russian batteries commanded by Gens. Veronetz and Artamonoff did not reply, awaiting a closer approach of the enemy.

The Japanese fire ceased at 2.20 p. m., and the enemy retired in the direction of Askold island. Simultaneously two torpedo boat destroyers appeared near Askold island and two more near Cape Maidel. The Japanese ships were covered with ice. The attack resulted in no loss to the Russians, but cost the enemy 200,000 roubles (\$100,000) in ammunition. Most of the projectiles were six and 12 inch shells.

The population of Vladivostok was warned this morning of the presence on the horizon of a hostile fleet and of the prospect of an attack during the day, but it remained tranquil.

MAY EVACUATE NEW CHWANG.

Yin Kow, March 6.—The removal of the furniture of the police and military quarters at New Chwang, the withdrawal of unnecessary rolling stock and equipment from the New Chwang railroad terminus and the removal of silver from the bank indicate an intended evacuation of New Chwang. The bank authorities have arranged to leave French and German agents in charge of their interests.

A large force of cavalry is expected to return to New Chwang before the river opens for the purpose of maintaining patrols between the main railroad and the sea and of reconnoitering the coast.

Russian private letters disclose the fact that in the recent engagements between the Yalu river and Ping Yang the Russians with superior numbers defeated the Japanese, but lost heavily.

Refugees arriving here say that Port Arthur has not been attacked since Feb. 26, but that stores and ammunition are still arriving. Work on the mud dock in which it is expected to repair the battleship Czarevitch has been abandoned for the last three days, the foreign engineer being unable to raise the Retvizan, quitting Port Arthur together with the only other Anglo-Saxon engineer there.

That considerable damage within the fortifications has been caused by the Japanese fire from Pigeon bay is corroborated by the refugees. Street traffic in Port Arthur, the refugees say, is largely confined to the ammunition carts. All the forts have been provided with naval signal officers for the purpose of identifying Russian ships and preventing the forts from firing on them when they arrive.

THE JAPANESE MOVEMENTS.

London, March 7.—The Daily Mail's Chee Foo correspondent says: "I am informed that there will be no advance until 100,000 men have been concentrated at Ping Yang. It is thawing inland and the waterways have greatly helped the transportation arrangements. The Japanese are busy at every landing place and are buying all suitable craft along the coast."

"At noon Friday transport steamers conveyed by the cruiser Takao and two torpedo boats landed men and stores ten miles below Hwangju. Cossacks are keeping a sharp watch on the Japanese movements."

Washington, March 3.—Armed with a 38-caliber revolver, Wm. J. O'Brien, alias Wm. Duffy, an insane discharged soldier, entered the war department today and, going to room 227, in the mail and record division, shot R. J. Manning, a messenger, and Arthur Wicker, a clerk. Miss Emma Saxton, another clerk, barely missed being shot through the head. The injury to Manning is on the right side just above the kidneys and is regarded as dangerous. Wicker was shot in the left arm above the elbow. Before the maniac could fire a third time he was overpowered by James J. Dawson. It required the combined strength of half a dozen men to subdue the man. Prominent among them was Lieut. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, chief of staff. The lunatic still held the smoking weapon in his hand, when Gen. Chaffee noticed it, and with his left hand on the man's throat, took the weapon from him and also the papers in his pocket. Majors Kean and Ireland, of the surgeon general's staff, were hastily sent for, and gave first aid to the injured men before they were taken to the emergency hospital.

A LETTER TO PARENTS.

Superintendent Edmunds Gives Wise and Salutary Counsel.

Mr. S. H. Edmunds, Superintendent of the City Graded Schools, has addressed the following communication to the heads of families represented by children enrolled in the schools. What he writes is so well and strongly put that we take great pleasure in transferring it to our columns. It will be found well worthy of careful reading by every parent:

Office of the Superintendent of The City Schools. Sumter, S. C., Feb. 26, 1904.

After an examination of the reports of the pupils for the past quarter and after careful consultation with teachers of the different grades, I am constrained to address to the parents this communication. It may be that nothing in this note applies to your child; but I shall send a copy of this to a representative of each family in school.

My earnest desire is that each parent may be a co-worker with the teacher for the good of the child. I should be glad to think that the day may soon come when a perfect understanding will reveal the truth that a teacher is not the enemy of the child; but, in ninety-nine cases in a hundred, the child's friend and well-wisher.

Assuming this co-partnership there are certain considerations that can not be too strongly emphasized. A statement of some of them may establish a basis for harmonious and united action.

1. The greatest thing in the world is truth. The way to acquire this virtue is to practice truthfulness in all of the little details of each day's life; to learn to despise everything that may deceive. This is a virtue that is attained by careful cultivation.

2. Another great virtue is self-reliance—that quality in one's nature that will not permit another to do for one what should be done by oneself. In real life the practice of this virtue accomplishes many things. The time to acquire it is when one is young; the way, is to do all of one's duties, however small or great they may seem, through one's own efforts.

3. Perhaps the virtue that yields the readiest and largest practical dividends is courtesy. While one is still at an impressionable age one should be taught to believe that politeness is not servility; but the expression of kindness and gentility. Especially to one's superiors should one never be anything but courteous and polite, even when one feels that one's rights have not been regarded.

Patience will reveal justice, and courtesy will deserve consideration.

4. In the mad rush for the mighty dollar and the consequent worship of materialism, this generation is characterized by its lack of reverence. This quality is cultivated in the child by honoring father and mother, thus teaching him to have a respect for one's elders and superiors. From this grows respect for age, reverence for God and for all places where He is worshipped. There is nothing more beautiful than reverential youth. It is seen only where from its cradle the child is taught day by day to have respect for everything that is high.

5. Throughout the grades there is a gradual growth in the amount of study required. There are certain well-defined tasks required of the pupils for each day. If the parents would but take pains to inquire each morning whether all the tasks for that day have been performed—and see to it that they are performed—not by injudicious assistance, but by interested attention—there would be established a means of inter-communication between home and school that would result in a great deal of good and generate an incalculable amount of interest. With each day's tasks well done there would result a love for study and each pupil would develop as he grew the student's spirit—a pleasure in duty well performed.

6. A teacher is often found fault with for insisting upon the performance of little tasks which to the unprofessional seem insignificant or uncalled for. It is forgotten that "trifles make perfection and perfection is no trifle"; that it is only by faithful attention to these little details that the class-room can be made a place conducive to teaching and learning; it is only thus that the child may become disciplined and self-controlled—a pleasure to others and a comfort to himself. Why should a pupil be required to be regular in his attendance? Because it is unfair to him and unjust to his class-mates to have a pupil feel otherwise than that going to school is his business and he is required by the laws of God and man to be diligent in business.

Why should a pupil be required to make up time that he loses during the day on account of being tardy or excused from the room? Because it is of practical and lasting advantage for a pupil to be taught that he owes the school so much time each day and he is bound to pay back the part of it that he may lose. Sometimes even here he is made to learn the lesson that in law and life there are punitive as well as actual damages.

Why should one be punished for doing certain things in the class-room that in themselves are not wrong? Because a class-room should be a well ordered organization governed and protected by a set of rules whose infringement causes the individual and the whole class to lose time and attention to which they are entitled. The real friend of the pupil is the teacher that makes perfect order in the class-room his ideal. Popularity won by laxity is without foundation in truth and loose methods result in disaster to discipline and to character.

In my administration of the affairs connected with our school there is nothing that I have desired more than the intelligent co-operation of parents and teachers. In most instances we have had it; in some the tendency has been to reach a conclusion upon hearing prejudiced testimony and thus condemn a teacher upon a statement made by a pupil in his own defense. However this may have been I beg that the parents will see in the school an agency for the good of his child and in the teacher the school's chief agent. Is

it wise to withhold a co-operation that will make an agency so much more efficacious; an agent, a power so much greater for good?

S. H. EDMUNDS, Superintendent of Schools.

THE HALF WAS NOT TOLD OF FAIR AND FERTILE WEDGEFIELD.

A Local Correspondent Makes Interesting Mention of People and Things not Heard of by Mr. Carswell.

Wedgefield, March 5.—In the Watchman & Southern of this week, I notice an article on "The Garden Spot of Carolina," in which the author gives some interesting sketches of various prominent citizens, but he has unwittingly left out many more, and if you will allow me a little space, I will add a few dots to his glowing account of men and things.

I think he failed to mention that although the "Dews", "Frosts" and "Floods" visit this place occasionally, and indeed, "Strange" to say, at any season, they do not seem to "Troublefields" very much, good crops being the usual thing.

At many of the lovely country "Holmes" are sparkling springs, highly prized, though some of the young girls are partial to the "Wells."

Upon one of the farms may be seen magnificent "Ry-an" oats, at another, a matchless "Bull," with the best of pedigrees.

A few miles below Wedgefield grow some "Nettles," so highly esteemed that specimens have been transplanted to other homes.

Hunters delight in birds and numerous rabbits, but none has killed a "Hare" yet, although some are about here. Large game abound near the "Woods."

We have good "Roads" in this section, even among the famous "Hills," and a novel way of working them, which others might like to try, so I will describe the method.

All citizens drive on the upper side of the roadbed and dodge holes, thus gradually filling in the lower side with clay and sand until it is passable, when they exchange sides, and continue to alternate until the chain gang levels both. The work is "Wel-don" and cheap, and well worth imitating, perhaps.

But to "Resoom backwards"—I "Mel-lett" others pass, but I must say a few words about our worthy Mayor.

While presiding over the Hall of Justice, he has furnished many able contributions from his pen to the "State," also has been able to send many contributions to the State "Pen" or at least "Put them on the road" to that necessary institution.

He never winks at evil but has the knack of getting on the blind side of a tiger, thus taking him unawares, when he punches out his other eye, however he may "Cornch" and hide. He is a joy to the righteous, but a terror to evil-doers.

Our obliging Postmistress gives universal satisfaction and is quite free from the failing so often attributed to her kind. I allude to postal reading. If she has ever indulged in the pastime, no one has suspected it, and all hope she may preside there many years.

Our two beloved physicians deserve more than a passing mention. One of these, during the past year has moved into his handsome, new residence near the mountain home of his neighbor, mentioned in the previous article, but upon a still higher peak, so high, in fact, that when the worthy Doctor sits bareheaded upon his upper portico, to enjoy the cool of the evening, there is very little between him and Heaven.

His professional brother, tho' young, has acquired a fine practice in a short time, and has just bought an elegant little farm, and remodelled his dwelling, which now contains two fine "Parlors," etc. Some say he is thinking of other additions.

In our midst dwell two wonderful persons, one of tremendous weight, that being no more or less than a "Single-ton." The other is a man who has never made a mistake in his life, for since the hour of his birth he has invariably been "Wright."

The young ladies are delighted with the number of new "Sparks" in the neighborhood, particularly as it is Leap Year. They will gladly welcome "Moore."

In church circles, some parties prefer the "Bailey" Barner to any other ecclesiastical light, others prefer their own "Way" to illuminate the scriptures; still others are devoted to one, whom no words of praise have ever been "Lide."

Speaking of churches and ministers reminds me of church-yards. We have two of these places quite close, but as they are the very last places I ever expect to enter, I will stop right here and sign myself.

P. S. My wife says some one will put me there prematurely, if I don't mind!

Rev. John O. Gough Makes a Deliverance.

Editor The Sumter Herald: At our recent meeting which was held in Sumter last Saturday, the long article of Dr. C. C. Brown addressed to the churches of the Santee Association, in which he uses my name quite freely along with others, was read before the body. It was our purpose to make some reply, that the true facts in the case might be given to the people, but after more mature thought, we deemed it best to pay no attention to the false and misleading statements made by Dr. Brown, feeling that if we in any large degree deal with a buzzard Baptist we will only relieve him of some of his filth, and our own robes become soiled. Respectfully, John O. Gough. Manning, S. C., Feb. 9th.

Mr. L. L. Baker Lands.

Dispensary Commissioner W. O. Tatum has appointed Mr. L. L. Baker, of Bishopville, Shipping Clerk at the State Dispensary. The position is a very good one, and carries with it salary of \$125 per month. Mr. Baker was formerly local Dispenser at Bishopville, and made a good officer.

The committee in charge of the movement to collect funds for a monument to N. G. Gonzales, the distinguished editor of The Columbia State, will call on the people of Sumter for contributions to this fund within the next few days and it is confidently expected that the response will be as liberal as Sumter is wont to make to every movement of this kind.

Advertisement for Nitrate of Soda. Includes illustration of a planter in Georgia and a farmer in Alabama. Text: 'The Standard Ammoniate Nitrate of Soda'.

Advertisement for Sweep-Stakes. Includes illustration of a man in a top hat and a sign that says 'THE FASTEST HORSE SWEEPS THE STAKES STAKE A CHANCE ON'. Text: 'THE NEW KIND OF CHEW THAT WON ENOUGH CHEWERS IN A YEAR TO MAKE SWEEP-STAKES THE LARGEST COMPETITIVE BRAND OF SCHNAPPS TOBACCO.'

Advertisement for Booth Live Stock Co. Text: 'NEW ARRIVAL. We have another Car Horses and Mules. We are also selling BUGGIES, WAGONS and HARNESS almost AT COST. The usual stock of Lime, Cement, Fire Brick, Flue Pipe and Builders' Supplies generally.'

Advertisement for Dixie Stalk Cutters. Includes illustration of a horse-drawn stalk cutter. Text: 'DIXIE STALK CUTTERS. We have secured the agency for these cutters in Sumter county. BOOTH LIVE STOCK CO.'

Large advertisement for Harby & Co. Text: 'GENUINE PERUVIAN GUANO, NITRATE OF SODA, MURIATE OF POTASH. HARBY & CO. Are Headquarters. Cured by Keeley Institute of S. C. 1329 Lady St., (or P.O. Box 75) Columbia, S. C. Confidential correspondence solicited'