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Progress of the Pacific.

China-United States vs. Russian Aggression

Wu Ting Fang, Chinese Minister at Washington, in an address recently made at Philadelphia, pointed out very clearly the dangers to be feared from Russian aggression. His views are valuable as they undoubtedly reflect the complexion of Chinese thought concerning Russia's encroachments in the Orient. Mr. Ting Fang, likened Russia to "the leviathan," which, having no vitals, cannot be mortally wounded, however severe the blow may be. In the opinion of the Chinese Minister, Russia, with limitless numbers entrenched in her remote and unassailable strongholds can neither be ousted from her position nor prevented from advancing.

"It is madness," Mr. Ting Fang further says, "to abate one particle of the issue and declare that something ought to be conceded for the cause of peace, to pretend, as do some Englishmen already weary of the strain, that Russia if given Northern China, or Constantinople, or a port on the Persian Gulf, will be content. She is not striving for portions, but for the whole of Asia; when she has gained this she knows, and we must eventually agree, that nothing human can resist her. Fortunately for the cause of freedom, America has just discovered that she is necessarily involved in the affairs of Eastern Asia; that she has a stake in common there with others whom she can already undersell in distant as well as in domestic markets; that her business compels her to join in the work of reducing barbarians to order and educating them; finally, and perhaps most fortunately of all for the present crisis, that there is no real antagonism between the mother country and her once rebellious colony, but that friendly cooperation has only to be proffered to be eagerly accepted. When we realize that the menace of Russian aggression affects not only the political supremacy of Great Britain in Asia, but the free exercise of those high aspirations which are vital to the existence

of every regenerate people, we will cease to imagine vain fears of imperialism and assemble the utmost strength of the enlightened West against that portentous imperialism embodied in the spirit of a devouring and devastating East. Finally, when we appreciate the fact that to secure China is the sine qua non of Russian designs for the establishment of a universal empire, that, with her wealth and willing hands, the Muscovite can never become master of a double continent, and so of the world, we will listen before it is too late to the Macedonian cry of that misgoverned nation to go over and help them."

The North China News is responsible for the following remarkable statement: "Russians in

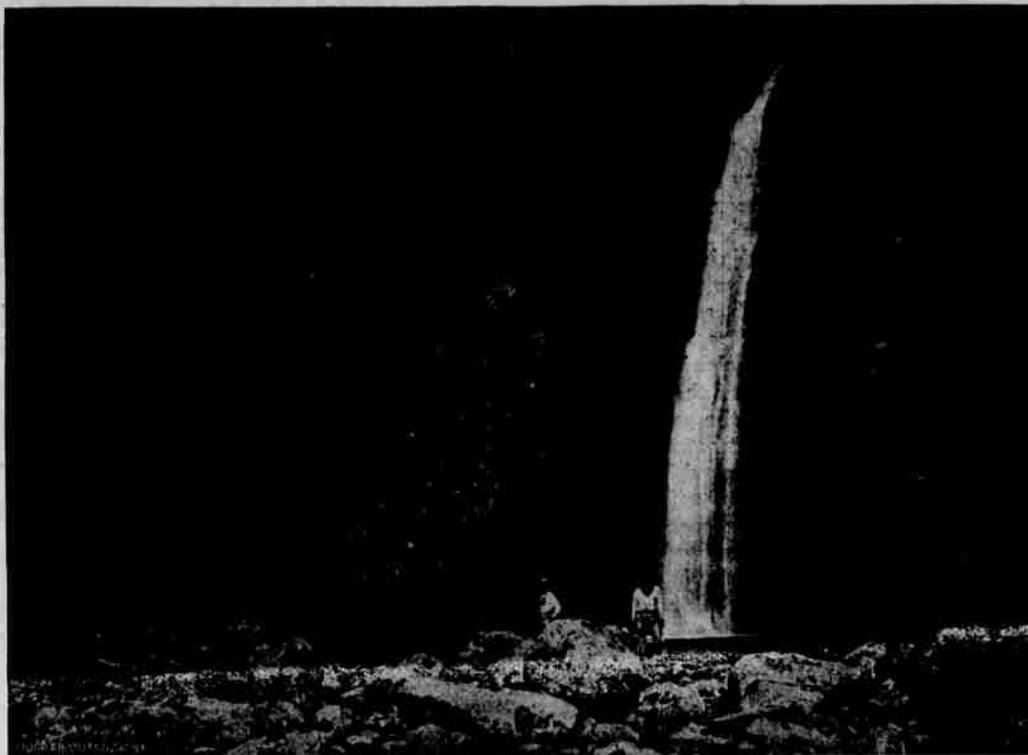
diers, with 20 officers and mining engineers, are quartered there." Therefore, Manchuria is practically a Russian province in spite of official protestation to the contrary. The first step has been taken by "the leviathan" toward the possession of the whole of Asia and the domination of the world.

The agreement made between England and Russia, defining the spheres of influence of each nation in China, does not seem to have had any effect in checking Russia aggression. Not long since M. de Giers, the Russian minister to Peking, made a demand, of the Chinese government, for a new railway concession connecting Peking with Russia's present railway system in Manchuria. The Chinese government refused the demand; but it is only a question of time when China will be compelled to grant the concession, thus putting the Chinese capital at Russia's mercy, unless England has strength enough and a desire to uphold the weak hands of the Chinese government. The result will probably be another contract between Russia and England in which the spheres of influence will be more closely defined and, as usual, Russia will gain another inch.

Russian activity in Abyssinia has been puzzling diplomats for sometime. The Czar has for three years been profuse in presenting gifts to Emperor Menelek which have been, of late, rifles, cartridges and rapid firing guns. Recently Russia made a proposal to Emperor Menelek to reorganize the Abyssinian army under Russian

officers. The proposal was refused, but, it is significant that the proposition should have been made at all. Many believe that Russia is preparing trouble for England in Egypt should the latter attempt to forcibly interfere with Russian designs in the Orient.

Where will this great game end? It is not at all impossible or even improbable that, to protect American trade and perpetuate the cause of freedom, the United States will be called upon to interfere a forced-mate, even if not a full check-mate.



Manchuria are acquiring land as they please, and are already working mines. The railroad, too, is obviously a military one, and he asserts that there are 30,000 Russian troops at Port Arthur, 3,000 at Talién Wan, 2,000 at Kin Chou, 200 at Lun-chou, 200 at Wafanglien, 200 at New Chwang, 200 at Haichieng, 200 at Liao Yang, 300 at Kirin, 20,000 at Haipion, north of Kirin, and, in fact, Russian soldiers are all over Manchuria. In Haishieng the Russians have taken a shop, and fortified it by mounting guns. At Liao Yang, they have a site 200 yards square, where they are building barracks. At Kirin the Russians have possession of the Chinese barracks, and 300 sol-