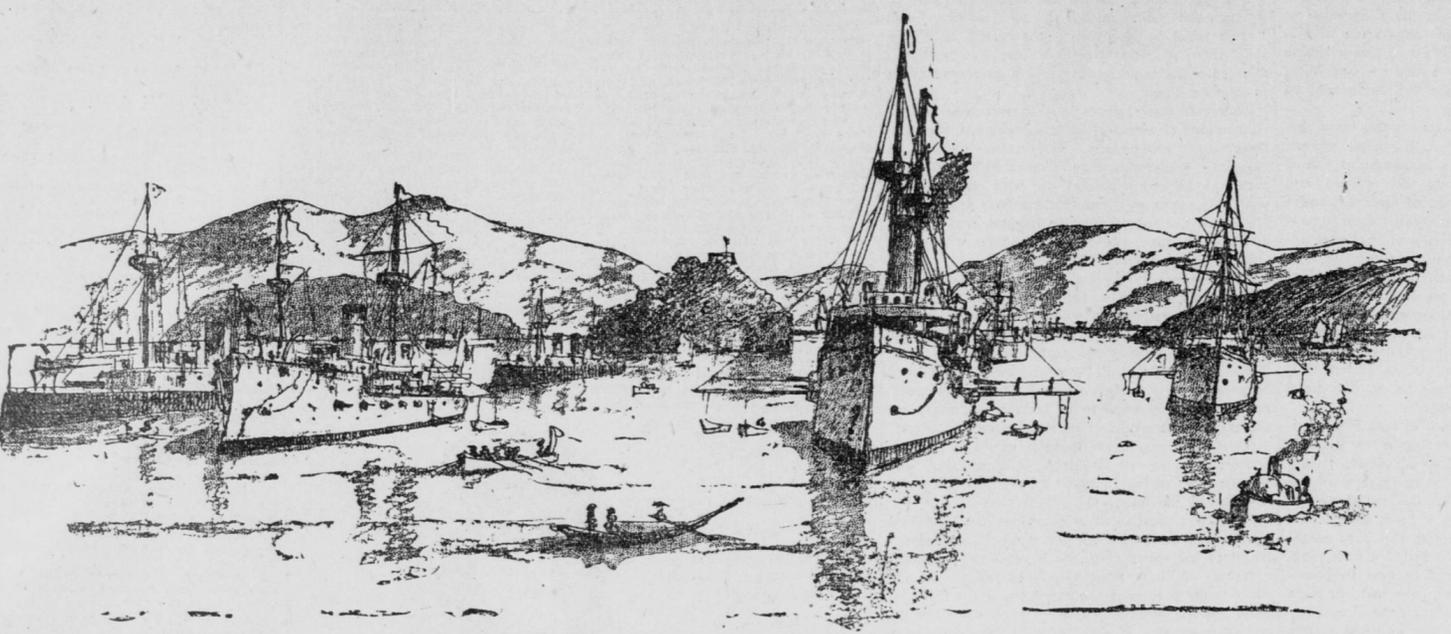


Entrance to Nagasaki Harbor, Where a Japanese Fleet Is Lying Ready to Proceed at a Moment's Notice to Korea or China.



FRANCE SEIZES HAI NAN ISLAND ON CHINA'S COAST

Continued from First Page.

Poland. Poland had established a precedent in international affairs, he said, and, following that precedent, if China was to be absorbed, then it was a question which the United States, in common with all the nations of the world, must take cognizance of. Until this final movement occurred, however, it was plain the United States had no interest in the fencing of European nations, and Japan for coaling stations and ports on the Asiatic coast.

In the meantime, the diplomats are much concerned in the movements of their respective Governments. A leading Japanese diplomat said today: "I do not look at the question as involving the partition of China, and no event has occurred thus far to indicate that China is about to be divided among the powers. The only tangible fact is that Germany has occupied Kiao Chau Bay, and Russia has a fleet at Port Arthur. But Germany's action was taken to collect an indemnity for an indignity to German missionaries, just as she forced indemnity from Hayti.

"Beyond this Germany may seek to establish a naval station at Kiao Chau and thus have a base of operations on the Pacific. That does not involve the taking of any considerable portion of Chinese territory, and it is yet to be shown that Germany will take more than a coast port and such land immediately adjacent as to give the port proper facilities. If it comes to taking territory, the course of China must not be overlooked. While China is weak from a military and naval standpoint, yet she has an enormous number of men ready to take the field, while the entire force of Germans at Kiao Chau cannot exceed a few thousand men. Even a weak nation is strong in defending its own territory. There are reports that Japan would aid China in an extremity, but there is nothing in that. Japan doubtless will act alone if there is any reason for acting at all. Thus far, however, I know of no steps that Japan has taken or contemplates toward taking part in the controversy. My impression is that she will remain independent and a neutral observer. Her position will be much stronger by such a policy than it would be by an alliance. As an observer, if she sees that the partition of China is at hand, doubtless she would have some part to take, but for the present there is no evidence that such an emergency is near."

Another Japanese diplomat said: "All the powers have known for months that a secret treaty was made last year between Russia and China, by which Russia was to have the right to bring her fleet at Port Arthur. For that reason the presence of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur does not lead other nations to fear Russia has begun a movement of territorial aggression on China. On the contrary, Russia and China are nearer together than any other two nations in the present contest, and if China is to get any outside relief it will come from Russia. It is quite plain, from recent events, that Russia has not got ready yet to have China partitioned, and until Russia is ready for that step, it will not occur. Moreover, there is a misapprehension as to Russian occupation of Port Arthur. It is not a land occupation, but merely a quartering of the Russian fleet in the outer harbor, Vladivostok being ice-bound, without connection with the shore."

A Chinese diplomat said: "The alleged statements coming from the Chinese legations have been unwarranted, as the legation has first received a word from Peking since the first notice was sent that a German force had landed at Kiao-Chau without previous notice to the Chinese Government. It is felt, however, that many of the reports as to the seriousness of the situation, particularly those from Shanghai, are overdrawn. Judging from the little doubt that the original purpose of Germany to enforce an indemnity has now developed into securing a naval station at Kiao-Chau and possibly more territory on the ground that Germany is entitled to a return for her services during the China-Japan war. But it appears to be overlooked that Germany has received distinct returns for those services in the granting of large concessions which at the time of the grant were considered as most valuable to Germany. As to the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, that is not a surprise. A Russian fleet was wintered at a Chinese port last winter with the consent of China, and it involved no sacrifice of territory. What the outcome will be is difficult to say, but it is felt that an amicable settlement will be made, possibly by the granting of coast sta-

tions, but without any serious dismemberment of territory." The German officials here take the view that there are but two actual steps on the part of Germany, namely, the occupation of Kiao-Chau Bay and the dispatch of Prince Henry's fleet to Chinese waters. Beyond this, they say, all is conjecture as to what Germany will do; that Prince Henry will extend his field of operations beyond Amoo and Hawaii is dismissed as absurd, although reports of such a movement have been current.

The British embassy has not received a word from the Foreign Office on the Eastern situation, but, in common with other diplomats, the officials view the situation as the most interesting one now occupying attention. There is a general disposition to credit the late reports that a considerable British fleet is at Port Hamilton, off Korea, and that a large number of Japanese ships are in the same vicinity. There are some 17 British ships on the Asiatic station, and a good part of them appear to be centering about Korea. This, however, is said to be apart from the general question of Chinese partition and to relate only to the displacement of an English official who had an influential position in the administration of Korean affairs.

French diplomats say France is not likely to take any part in a struggle for Chinese territory, if that eventuality comes, as France already has secured most extensive possessions in southeastern China, notably French Tonquin. It was M. Patenotre, the late French Ambassador at Washington, who carried through the negotiations with Li Hung Chang by which France secured this foothold on Asiatic soil. Beyond the sending of the French cruiser Jean Bart to Chinese waters, it is said that the Chinese situation does not appear to have aroused France, and the dispatch of this cruiser is said to have no more significance than the sending of the United States cruiser Raleigh, which is now on her way to the Chinese station.

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JAPAN'S FLEET SMALL, BUT IN GOOD TRIM FOR INSTANT FIGHTING

The navies of the world are well represented in Asiatic waters, there being, just prior to Germany's taking possession of Kiao Chou Bay in China, no less than sixty-four foreign war vessels on the coasts of China and Japan. Of these twenty-eight were British, seventeen Russian, seven French, five United States, five German, one Austrian and one Portuguese. Many of the British and Russian ships are, however, of very little use for fighting purposes, and the armored fleet of Russia in Chinese waters consists of only four armored cruisers, namely, Rurik, 10,923 tons, 8-inch belt, carrying four 8-inch, sixteen 6-inch and six 4.7-inch guns; Admiral Nakhimoff, 7781 tons, 10-inch belt, and carrying eight 8-inch and ten 6-inch guns; Dimitri Donasky, 5893 tons, with 6-inch belt, and a battery of two 8-inch, four 6-inch and ten 4.7-inch guns; the fourth being the Pamjat Asova of 6000 tons, 8-inch belt, and armament of two 8-inch and thirteen 6-inch guns. There are also two armored gunboats, the Gremiesty and Otavsky, of 1500 tons, protected by 8-inch armor and each carrying two 8-inch and one 6-inch gun. Of the remaining eleven vessels only one cruiser, the Admiral Kornieloff, of 5000 tons and two 8-inch and fourteen 6-inch guns, is worthy of note, the other craft being either of antiquated design or too small to be of any other use than coast service. The armor-piercing power of the Russian fleet in Asiatic waters amounts to only five 8-inch and twenty 8-inch guns incapable of penetrating armor over ten inches thick at 1000 yards, and of the vessels none have over 10-inch armor belt. Although the Russian navy is numerically strong, many of the ships are from fifteen to thirty years old, while of its sixteen battleships built, nine of the best are looked up in the Black sea. Thus only seven battleships are available at once for the voyage from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok, a distance of about 16,000 miles, and none of them are in point of size and efficiency anywhere near the equals of Japan's latest battleships. Russia is deficient in cruisers and the volunteer fleet constitutes with the armored vessels the naval strength of Russia, barring a few gunboats and torpedo gunboats of modern construction.

The fleet of Japan, on the other hand, is small but highly efficient. Its two battleships, Fuji and Yamashiro, are the most formidable ships-of-war afloat, except the Majestic and Royal Sovereign classes in the British navy. The cruiser, however, that Japan makes a specialty of is the Chiyoda, of 7400 tons and 2400 tons, constitute, with the two first named ships, the armored fleet of Japan, which, small in number, makes up in efficiency. It is in the cruiser class that Japan has always excelled Russia, of which it has eighteen ranging from 1400 to 4700 tons, swift and powerfully armed vessels. In the advance of trouble Japan would have the advantage derived from fighting near home, its armored vessels, innumerable to the shot of any Russian gun, and with a fleet of fast cruisers and half a hundred torpedo boats capable of blocking Vladivostok or any other port which Russia may choose as a naval station. To bring its vessels, war material, including coal, a distance of upwards of 16,000 miles would be an arduous and time-consuming task, and the Russian ships, which, after so extended a voyage, would be in want of considerable repairs, might find themselves shut out from making port. It would appear, from this exposition of facts that in a naval war between Russia and Japan the latter would have a decided advantage, and that Russia would be forced to come to an understanding with other European naval powers in order to offset the formidable advantages of Japan. A combination with Germany would likely be a possibility between Great Britain and Japan, but that, as Kipling would say, is "another story to be told."

WHITE CAPS BATTLE WITH AN INTENDED VICTIM

Shoot a Man Charged With Having Permitted His Aged Father to Starve.

OTTUMWA, Iowa, Dec. 29.—Whitecaps have been at work in Le County, near West Point, and as a result one man is dead and a warlike spirit has been aroused in the neighborhood. Abe Balm and his two brothers are well-to-do farmers, living near West Point. Not far away lived their father, in subject poverty. When the old man died, a few days ago, it was claimed he had starved to death. After the father was dead the sons refused to pay the expenses of his burial or even to see the body.

This so enraged the neighboring farmers that last night a mob of about thirty citizens marched to the home of the Balm brothers and called for Abe, the eldest. Abe stepped to the door, and seeing the crowd outside retreated into the house before the mob could lay hands on him. He called to his brothers, and all three opened fire on the visitors from the door of the house, inside of which were Abe's wife and children. The mob returned the fire, and after the smoke had cleared away it was found that Abe had been mortally wounded. He died in a short time.

The brothers have sworn out warrants against seven neighbors, charging them with murder. Many of the farmers say they will not countenance the arrest of their neighbors.

It is unusual for a person's eyes to be equally strong. In only three cases out of ten does it happen that the eyesight is equally good in each eye.

HANNA GAINS SEVERAL VOTES

Politicians Gather at Columbus for the Senatorial Fight.

Several Legislators Who Opposed the Incumbent Are Now in His Ranks.

Opposition Forces Will Test Their Strength on the Preliminary Organization.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 29.—There was an influx of legislators to-night and the scenes about the hotel lobbies indicated that the senatorial election was the absorbing question. That the anti-Hanna Republicans, led by Charles Kurtz, will test the strength of their forces in the organization of the Legislature, was indicated by the unofficial announcement that Representative Mason of Cleveland would oppose Representative Boxwell of Warren County for speaker. Mason, accompanied by Representative Bramley of Cleveland, both of whom are known to be unfriendly to Senator Hanna, opened headquarters at the Great Southern Hotel to-day and it was generally understood that the anti-Hanna men would conduct their campaign from that place. It is significant that the Democratic State headquarters are located in the same hotel.

Allen O. Meyers is the apparent leader of the Democrats in the proposed fusion with the anti-Hanna Republicans. Meyers has given out that the Democratic members of the House will support Representative Mason for speaker and C. H. Gerrish of Columbus, anti-Hanna Republican, for clerk of the House in opposition to John R. Malloy. The anti-Hanna Republicans are to turn all the other offices of the House over to the Democrats in consideration of the election of the men chosen by Kurtz for speaker and clerk.

A conference of Democratic members of the Legislature and party leaders is to be held here on Friday to discuss the proposed fusion with the anti-Hanna Republicans. Within the last few days strong opposition has arisen from certain Democrats to the proposed fusion, and it is now certain that all the Democratic members cannot be whipped into line. Several Democratic members who arrived in the city to-night stated emphatically that they would not vote for any one except a Democrat for United States Senator. These members will serve their first term, and they say that if they voted for any Republican to defeat Senator Hanna, they would not be returned.

There was a conference of Republican leaders at Major Dick's rooms in the Nell this afternoon and to-night, but it was stated that they were merely talking over the situation. Major Dick said that Senator Hanna's reelection was assured.

It was significant that Representative Snyder of Green County, who was formerly counted as an anti-Hanna man, was conspicuous at Major Dick's headquarters and working in Senator Hanna's interests. Several Republican members, upon their arrival to-day, were claimed by Kurtz's lieutenants as opposed to Senator Hanna, but, on being pressed, admitted they intended to vote for him. White Kurtz denies himself to all public interviews, he at times asserts in his confidential friends that Senator Hanna will be defeated.

CHOPS HIS WIFE TO DEATH WITH A HATCHET.

Horrible Crime Committed by a Negro in the Business District of Kansas City.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 29.—Nellie Johnson, a young negro, was chopped to death with a hatchet in an alley near Tenth and Wyandotte streets, in the business district of the city. Her husband was the murderer. He called her from their house into the alley and attacked her with the hatchet. The woman threw up her hands to protect her head. When men who heard her cries ran to the scene they found her dying. Each of eight blows upon her head split the skull and her hands had been literally chopped to pieces.

Near by stood a horse and an express wagon, in which there were ropes tied to a heavy stone. It had evidently been the intention of the murderer to throw his victim into the river, but the woman's outcry had prevented this being done. Johnson is still at large.

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The navies of the world are well represented in Asiatic waters, there being, just prior to Germany's taking possession of Kiao Chou Bay in China, no less than sixty-four foreign war vessels on the coasts of China and Japan. Of these twenty-eight were British, seventeen Russian, seven French, five United States, five German, one Austrian and one Portuguese. Many of the British and Russian ships are, however, of very little use for fighting purposes, and the armored fleet of Russia in Chinese waters consists of only four armored cruisers, namely, Rurik, 10,923 tons, 8-inch belt, carrying four 8-inch, sixteen 6-inch and six 4.7-inch guns; Admiral Nakhimoff, 7781 tons, 10-inch belt, and carrying eight 8-inch and ten 6-inch guns; Dimitri Donasky, 5893 tons, with 6-inch belt, and a battery of two 8-inch, four 6-inch and ten 4.7-inch guns; the fourth being the Pamjat Asova of 6000 tons, 8-inch belt, and armament of two 8-inch and thirteen 6-inch guns. There are also two armored gunboats, the Gremiesty and Otavsky, of 1500 tons, protected by 8-inch armor and each carrying two 8-inch and one 6-inch gun. Of the remaining eleven vessels only one cruiser, the Admiral Kornieloff, of 5000 tons and two 8-inch and fourteen 6-inch guns, is worthy of note, the other craft being either of antiquated design or too small to be of any other use than coast service. The armor-piercing power of the Russian fleet in Asiatic waters amounts to only five 8-inch and twenty 8-inch guns incapable of penetrating armor over ten inches thick at 1000 yards, and of the vessels none have over 10-inch armor belt. Although the Russian navy is numerically strong, many of the ships are from fifteen to thirty years old, while of its sixteen battleships built, nine of the best are looked up in the Black sea. Thus only seven battleships are available at once for the voyage from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok, a distance of about 16,000 miles, and none of them are in point of size and efficiency anywhere near the equals of Japan's latest battleships. Russia is deficient in cruisers and the volunteer fleet constitutes with the armored vessels the naval strength of Russia, barring a few gunboats and torpedo gunboats of modern construction.

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA VERY GREATLY DISTURBED BY THE SUN'S ECLIPSE.

It Is Feared the Darkening of the Luminary on New Year's Day Portends Evil to the Empire.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The State Department has just received a copy, through United States Minister Denby, of the recent curious decree issued by the Emperor of China to fend off the wrath of Providence, as indicated in the eclipse predicted for New Year's day. The document is pronounced by experts to be a masterful exhibition of typical Chinese statesmanship in view of the existing critical condition of affairs in the Celestial empire. The decree reads as follows:

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