

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

The uselessness of the daily papers to the man who wants facts was never made more apparent than since the Russo-Japanese war broke out. In the cities the sole idea has been to get up a sensational line or two every hour or so and spread it across a whole page in red ink to increase the street sales and for the regular edition print columns of surmises, guesses and articles by "war experts" who knew no more about the situation than any other citizen.

The editor of The Independent has worked hours in going over the reports in the dailies in order, if the thing were possible, to give a succinct and accurate account of what really has happened since the war broke out. He has run across the results of the work of several other writers in the dailies and high-priced weeklies who have been attempting to do the same thing and they are all failures. Every item of news that has been sent from the seat of war has been contradicted over and over again. The official reports that come from St. Petersburg, sent out by the Russian government, do not seem any more reliable than those from the war correspondents.

The Japanese government has accomplished something that no nation ever did before. It has completely concealed from the knowledge of the world the movements of large squadrons of the navy and large armies. It has been able to do this because of the patriotism of every Japanese subject. The newspaper editors of Japan are just as loyal as the men in the ranks. They will not print news that might be detrimental to their country, although they might enrich themselves by so doing. In this country a commercial and subsidized press, the ideal of which is that money-making is the greatest thing in the world, would not hesitate to print the movement of troops no matter what the result to the country might be, if it could only get on the streets first with a sensation. A thousand times The Independent has declared that these men have no patriotism, no country, no politics. In Japan it is different and that is what makes that little nation invincible.

As far as The Independent can sift the contradictory dispatches, the truth seems to be about this: Japan after declaring war by the withdrawal of her minister from St. Petersburg, made a naval attack upon Port Arthur and sank or disabled three Russian warships, the effective work being done by torpedo boats, and then retired without damage or the loss of a life. Shortly afterwards, two Russian warships were blockaded in the port of Chemulpo, Korea. The Japanese admiral sent in word that if these ships did not leave port he would come inside and attack them there. As these Russian warships would have a better chance of escape in the open sea than in a harbor, they came out and the Japanese sunk them both, since that, there have been several attacks on Port Arthur by the Japanese navy, the last on February 29, when two more Russian warships and a torpedo boat were disabled or sunk.

Where the Japanese army is no one knows. It is said that 60,000 Japanese troops have landed in Korea and are pushing north toward the Yalu river which is the boundary between Korea and Manchuria, but is very doubtful whether that is true or not. The latest rumor is to the effect that the Japanese have blockaded Vladivostok from the sea and invested it on the land side by landing a large force in a bay just to the south.

Japan has impressed into service nearly all its ocean-going steamers and many other vessels. All that is positively known is that some 200,000 troops have been taken aboard and the ships have sailed. Where they

are, and where it was intended to land the troops, nobody outside the Japanese government knows. All that can be said is that it is probable that Vladivostok has been blockaded, for the Japanese transports now sail without a naval convoy. The Russian navy has been swept from the eastern seas without the loss of a single life. That is the most astonishing thing in the history of the world.

This war cannot seriously affect America in any way if common sense is exercised at Washington. Our trade had been practically ruined with China before it began on account of the low price of silver which prevented the Chinese from buying our goods and the occupation of Manchuria by Russia. The trade with Japan may be slightly increased.

THE NEW YORK POST

It is not at all to be doubted that The Independent is carefully read every week by the attorneys, the hired literary chaps and the managers of the money power of the New York papers. In the edition of the New York Post of Saturday, February 20, the following appeared:

A Whole People Cowed

The Press Captured and
Coward Hirelings Only Can
Write for It.

The above startling headlines, placed by the Nebraska Independent over some "editorial correspondence" from New York, induced us to read further, only to find that we are the "hirelings." It seems that this Ithuriel's spear of an editor tried to get into the columns of the metropolitan press a long letter explaining and defending the principles of the populists. Here follows his damning revelations: "Some people here who have a very high idea of the honesty and integrity of the editors of the Evening Post insisted that the article should be sent to that paper. I told them that it would never appear, but to satisfy them, I sent it to that paper also. It was thrown in the waste basket."

Now, we cannot deny the charge. Our waste basket is large, and never gives up its secrets. But if we did decline to print the editor's letter, we were justified, on his own confession. It is he himself who explains:

"To make it (the letter) go I acknowledge that I used a little literary strategy." He has had many vivid experiences in the west. "In every gathering," as he says, "I have been urged to tell tales of the Indians and life on the plains, so I threw in a little of that at the beginning and end, as an inducement to get the average resident to read the rest." But what this follower of "dim trails" left by the savage enemy failed to take into account was, not the craven cowardice of the hirelings of a plutocratic press, but the deep-rooted objection of editors to being "worked." Had the Nebraska editor's letter dealt frankly—as it seemed to promise—with "dim trails" it might even have brought space rates. But that "literary strategy" was unworthy of a fearless and straightforward populist. We try, arduous as the task sometimes seems, to keep our populists and our wild Indians distinct.

There are two things very noticeable about that article in the Post. One is that the headlines are larger than the Post uses over its own articles and the second thing is the adroit manner in which this able and cultured literary hireling begs the whole question. The article which the Post refused to publish was printed in full in this paper and our readers can judge of the style and ability of the article. His excuse for not printing it was that it did not deal frankly with "dim trails," and did deal frankly with a statement of populist principles which the Post had vilified, misrepresented and denounced for a whole week in succession.

The article proves the charge which the editor of The Independent made against the Post and other New York daily papers, namely, that those papers will not publish a line inimical to the money power. The editor of The Independent knows from his association among them for six weeks that there is scarcely a man in the whole city who dare say a word against the great corporations. The same pressure is brought to bear

IAMS' HORSES

Well, well! Cheer up! Get busy—Iams' peaches and cream are ripe. They were sensational "show horses," "live whirlwinds" at the Nebraska State Fair. (He had a snap.) Iams had a whole barn full of prize winners there. Iams won first on four-year-old Percherons in class of thirty-two (an easy victory). Also championship sweepstakes Percheron stallion ever all, and many more prizes. In fact all the principal prizes in Percherons, Belgians and Coachers. Then Iams kept his great 51,000-pound show pair and the best stallion in every class out of the Nebraska show yard. Iams' best horses were at the Nebraska State Fair for exhibition and were not shown for prizes. None of the special trails of 100 stallions received August 23, 1903, were shown at Nebraska State Fair, and among these he had the first and second prize four-year-old Percherons at largest French horse show at Chartres, and many Percheron winners at leading "horse-shows," as well as winners at leading "horse-shows" of BELGIUM and GERMANY. Iams is justly entitled to the name—

SWEEPSTAKES STUD

VISITORS and BUYERS through his barn at Nebraska State Fair and said: "HELLO, TOM! I'M FROM ILLINOIS." "I'M KLY from Missouri. Say, IAMS HAS THE BEST HORSE-SHOW I EVER SAW. Yes, see those four 2,000-pound two-year-olds. IAMS IS A HOT ADVERTISER, but he has horses BETTER THAN HE ADVERTISES: nicer than pictures." "HELLO, MR. I'M FROM IOWA." "I'M ZEEKE, from Ohio. Say, this is the BEST STRING OF STALLIONS I EVER SAW: they are sure peaches and cream. See those six 2,200-pound three-year-olds—all alike, too. They are ALL-WOOL AND A YARD WIDE. Zeke, they are sure 'THE WIDE-AS-A-WAGON SORT.'" "Say, MOTHER, look! This is IAMS' GREAT SHOW OF HORSES. His horses are all black and big, ten fellows; none on the grounds to compare with his. He always has the BEST." "Well, Samantha, here is IAMS' SHOW HERD. EVERYBODY wants to see his horses. We came from California to see IAMS 5,100-POUND PAIR OF STALLIONS. THAT'S THEM; better than the pictures. They are sure the greatest pair in the U. S. Yes, and WORTH GOING 2,000 MILES to see." "Hello, Louie, here is IAMS' 2,400-POUND SWEEPSTAKES PERCHERON stallion OVER ALL. He is a 'HUMMER.'" "Say, 'DOC,' I don't wonder at HIS COMPETITORS wanting this horse BARRICAD out of show ring. He is a SURE WINNER anywhere. IAMS always has GOOD ONES and has them in shape." "Hello, Bob. See those Illinois men buying that 2,200-pound three-year-old, a 'TOP-NOTCHER,' at \$1,200—MUCH BETTER than twenty of my neighbors gave \$4,000 for." "Kitty, see those fine COACHERS OF IAMS." "Georgie, dear, they are lovely; they can look into the second-story window. They step high and fast—real live 'WHIRLWINDS.'" "Yes, Kitty, IAMS HAS MORE REGISTERED DRAFT AND COACH STALLIONS than ANY ONE man in the U. S., and all good ones." "Georgie, dear, you must buy your next stallion of IAMS. His horses are much better than the one you paid those Ohio men \$4,000 for, and IAMS ONLY ASKS \$1,000 AND \$1,500 FOR 'TOPPERS.'" IAMS has on hand

147—Black Percherons, Belgians and Coachers—147

90 per cent blacks; 50 per cent ton horses. IAMS speaks the languages, BUYS DIRECT from breeders, pays NO BUYERS, SALESMEN or INTERPRETERS. Has no THREE to TEN men as partners to share profits with. His TWENTY-TWO YEARS SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS makes him a safe man to do business with. Iams guarantees to sell you a better stallion at \$1,000 and \$1,400 than are being sold to stock companies for \$2,500 to \$4,000 by slick salesmen, or pay your fare and \$25 PER DAY FORTROUBLE to see them, YOU THE JUDGE. IAMS PAYS HORSES' freight and buyer's fare, gives 60 per cent breeding guarantee. Write for eye OPENER and CATALOGUE. References: St. Paul State Bank and First State Bank.

FRANK IAMS.

St. Paul, Nebraska.

upon the man drawing a salary of \$25,000 a year, the common laborer and scrub woman alike. I talked with one man who has a salary of about \$50,000. He said that he could not hold his position a week if he expressed views inimical to the money power. I talked to the "white wings" who clean the streets and they said the same thing. I talked with editorial writers on the great dailies. They bore testimony to the same fact. The Post does not deny the facts. It makes objection to the publication of an article because the similes and metaphors used in it were drawn from life on the plains. If anything weaker or sillier was ever written by a \$10,000 a year editor of a great New York daily than the above article in the Post, The Independent will give a year's subscription to the man who will produce it.

A BISHOP'S VIEWS

Bishop Spaulding in a recent address among other things said:

"Despite our marvelous success and achievement, we have failed to secure equal opportunities to all, which is the radical aim and master passion of democracy. More than 70 per cent of the wealth of the United States, it is reckoned, is owned by 3 per cent of the families; while 29 per cent of the wealth is all that is left for 91 per cent of the population; and the tendency or industrial progress under the competitive system is to increase inequality of possession. If the present methods continue a few individuals and trusts will soon control the means of production and distribution, and this in an era in which money is the mightiest form of social influence and dominion. To these few individuals and corporations will belong an authority and power greater than any history makes known—an authority and power which are incompatible with political liberty and popular institutions. Capital dictates even now, in a large measure, the policies of our national, state, and municipal legislative bodies. It enables the multimillionaires and the trusts to make or to evade the laws. It controls most potent organs of public opinion, and is able to give to the interests of industrialism priority over the rights of man."

Bishop Spaulding seems to have come to the same conclusion concerning the public press that the editor of The Independent did after he had been down on Wall street a few weeks.

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