

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Comparative Fighting Forces of the two Nations on the Verge of War.

New York World.

Few persons understand what the row between Russia and Japan is about and how it comes that an island nation with a population of 44,280,608 and 162,655 square miles of territory should dare a trial of strength with a compact empire with a population of 129,004,514 and 8,630,395 square miles of territory, not to speak of the great disparity in size of the Russian and Japanese armies and navies.

Ever since United Europe prevented Russia from getting an ice-free seaport and made the sultan guardian to the entrance to the Black Sea, the Russians have turned their faces eastward, seeking by means of the vast Trans-Siberian railway an ice-free seaport in Asia.

Meantime Japan, weary of her isolation as an island empire, sought to gain a foothold on the mainland of Asia by securing an unimpaired and empty-headed hermit nation of about 11,000,000 inhabitants, occupying a mountainous peninsula of 85,000 square miles, which reaches southward from Manchuria between the Yellow sea and Japan sea.

In order to assert her position Japan provoked a war with China in 1894 and drove the Chinese army out of Korea. She also landed an army corps in Manchuria and conquered the Province of Liaotung, which contains Port Arthur, Talienwan—both military strongholds on the Yellow sea—and the ancient Tartar capital, Mukden.

China sued for peace. In the negotiations which followed she ceded to Japan not only the island of Formosa, but the Manchuria province of Liaotung. This province reaches from the north of Korea to the Gulf of Pechili, the sea threshold of the route of Peking.

It exactly suited the swiftly expanding ambitions of Japan. It placed Korea helplessly between her territorial frontiers, gave her the greatest military and naval stronghold in Asia—Port Arthur—and brought her within striking distance of the capital of China.

At this point Russia, supported by France and Germany, refused to allow Japan to take the province which she had conquered, and which had been ceded to her. Japan roared with anger, but submitted.

Later on Russia built a branch of her Trans-Siberian railway to Port Arthur, which she leased from China. Gradually Russian troops were moved into Manchuria. Russian officials really administered the government of the country, although China was nominally sovereign.

To-day Russia occupies and has virtually annexed the province out of which she ousted Japan only eight years ago. She has a viceroy, Admiral Alexieff, at Port Arthur.

The situation has aroused Japan to a high pitch of fury. She wants revenge and a vindication. She cannot bear the sight of the Russian flag flying over territory once hers by right of conquest.

sary to maintain the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea, and also agreed, in case war should ensue, that if other powers should join the aggressor in hostilities against one of the contracting parties, the other should go to its assistance.

Japan is said to have sent an ultimatum to Russia, and it is announced that unless Russia complies by January 7 war will follow. Both statements, however, have been denied officially.

The whole Japanese army on a war footing amounts to only 474,770 officers and men, while the war strength of the Russian army is 5,617,703 officers and men. In time of peace Japan has an army of 141,770 soldiers, while Russia has always more than 1,000,000 men under arms.

The Japanese navy consists of fifty-eight warships and eighty-six torpedo boats, while Russia has 119 warships and 226 torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers. The Japanese navy carries 540 heavy guns and 1,012 secondary and machine guns. The Russian navy carries 672 heavy guns and 4,326, secondary and machine guns.

Japan has eight first-class battleships two second class battleships and one third class battleship. Russia has twenty-five first class battleships nine second class battleships and seven third class battleships. Japan has four coast-defense ships and two armored cruisers. Russia has seven coast defense ships and fifteen armored cruisers. Japan has seven first class cruisers eighteen cruisers of other classes and sixteen gunboats. Russia has twelve first class cruisers, twenty-five second-class cruisers nine third class cruisers and eleven sea-going gunboats.

Japan is in every way inferior to Russia from a military standpoint. As to the relative fighting qualities of the soldiers it must be remembered the Russian troops have held their own against the Turks, in many ways the finest and most stubborn soldiery in Europe, while only test of modern Japanese soldiers on a large scale was in 1894, when they faced the half-armed, cowardly and untrained rabble of the Chinese army.

By remaining in a defensive position—the attitude she has assumed thus far—Russia could compel Japan to transport her army over the sea to fight. Japan could not attack Russia in Manchuria with any hope of success. There is a great Russian army there with great fortresses as depositories of supplies. Nor could she attack Russia on her Siberian seacoast, for there is another great army there.

Korea would be the half-way ground. Both countries would have to use their armies and navy if the war should be mainly in Korea.

Then again, if Japan should be assisted by Great Britain and China also be her ally, she might use Korea as a base, enter Manchuria at the Yalu river and march toward Port Arthur and Talienwan from the rear, as she did before, while Great Britain and China could strike Russia by land and sea at all points, especially breaking the line of the Trans-Siberian railway and cutting the Russian army off.

Concord Mills to Curtail.

Charlotte Observer, 10th.

Beginning this week, all of the cotton manufacturing plants in Concord will run only 4 days per week, this action having been decided upon at a recent meeting of the cotton mill men of the city, on account of the scarcity and high prices of cotton, and the low price of manufactured goods.

In Concord there are eight mills, the larger number of them having the highest rating of any in the South. They have a total of 88,000 spindles and 3,300 looms, and furnish employment for about 2,000 hands, who make on an average of approximately \$1 per day, including the bosses, youths and all classes of laborers. Curtailment will mean about \$4,000 less per week in the hands of the employes of the mills.

A dispatch from Frankfort Ky., Saturday says: The house committee on suffrage and election has decided to report favorably the Heflin suffrage bill. This bill in effect disfranchises the negro on the ground of illiteracy.

A passenger train on the Seaboard Airline Railway was held up near Sanderson, Florida, Saturday night and the door of the baggage car blown open with dynamite. The robbers were finally driven from the train and secured no booty.

TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD?

That is the Question Considered in the President's Message to Congress.

Yorkville Inquirer.

The message of the president delivered to congress last Monday deals exclusively with the course of the government in securing the Panama canal cession and our relations with the new republic of Panama. It makes about 13,000 words.

First is stated the congressional act authorizing the president to negotiate with Panama, or failing there, with Nicaragua. This act it is stated, has been complied with.

Secretary Cass' principle enunciated in 1858, is quoted in defense of treatment of Colombia. Act of senate in 1889 and Hay-Panncéfote treaty given as justification. Hay-Herran treaty denominated too lenient in that it gave Colombia too much opportunity to hold up the United States.

Course of Colombia shown to be one of tergiversation and double dealing. Onus of locating canal placed on congress. Claim advanced that Colombia was warned, but in vain, as to danger of her course.

Treaty of 1846, it is said, dedicated isthmus to inter-oceanic waterway. The International jurists brought forward to prove the point. Revolt of Panamanians not surprising. News dispatches quoted to show that revolution was known to be planning. Army officers quoted to show Panamanians were acting on their own initiative.

Orders to navy issued only when unrest on isthmus was known to endanger free transit. These orders quoted. The message gives instructions sent to consul at Panama.

Orders to Hubbard to keep transit open and prevent bloodshed quoted. Hubbard's letter given in full, wherein he says Colombia virtually declared war against United States and forced the occupation of depot at Colon by naval forces to protect American lives and property. Acts of United States marines and ships are rehearsed in detail to show no active participation in the rebellion.

Claim made that, instead of there being too much interference with isthmian affairs, the situation warranted greater display of force than was actually made. Newspaper article quoted to show that Panama was resolved on obtaining canal at all costs.

Bloodshed prevented by action of Commander Hubbard. Course pursued only one that could have prevented bloodshed and great property loss.

Emphatic denial of complicity in revolutionary movement. Early recognition of new republic warranted an exception to principle of non intervention by our treaty rights, our national interests and safety and civilization's collective interests.

Terms of treaty of 1846 reviewed to show that its purpose was to guarantee right to construct canal. Claims of Panama to recognition are rehearsed in detail.

Colombia sought, says message to confiscate rights and property of Panama Canal company. Her modus operandi outlined. Recognition of Panama not an approval of principle of revolution. Cuba cited as example of disinterestedness of American people.

Article 35 of treaty of 1846 defined and explained.

Conclusion: Recognition of Panama is accomplished and is not to be now considered. The only question is whether we shall build isthmian canal.

The South Dunn Furniture Company's plant at Dunn was destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon, entailing a loss of \$75,000, partly covered by insurance.

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DON'T FORGET THIS GREAT 20 PER CENT CUT SALE AT

Thomson Company's THE PEOPLE'S STORE.

PHONE 46.

THREE SOUTHERN GENERALS.

Longstreet and Gordon Great Generals, But Hoke a Nobler Figure Than Either.

Biblical Recorder.

The two most distinguished of the Confederate generals died last week—Lieutenant General Longstreet and Major General Gordon. The ranking general of the Confederacy after Longstreet, survives and lives at Raleigh, N. C., presenting the world a life as modest and gentle and useful as that with which the great Lee crowned his illustrious career in the army—Gen. R. F. Hoke.

General Longstreet was a great general. He was an able strategist, a hard fighter, and a faithful soldier. So long as Lee lived no one charged Longstreet with failure to make the fanciful sunrise attack on the second day at Gettysburg. But when Lee had died, this calumny was started, and it was used in bounding him to the day of his death—on that day certain misguided Daughters of the Confederacy refusing to send flowers for his bier. Longstreet was the victim of a foul persecution by a partisan press—the like of which we see nowadays at ever increasing intervals. They did not approve his ideas and they ruined him. He advised the South to accept the results of the war; his business was taken from him, his friends were estranged, and his life was made a burden.

His magnificent services deserved better reward. But history will give him his place; intolerance even now is departing; and as for Longstreet himself, he stands to-night before the Judge of the world.

General Gordon was more notable as a fighter than as a strategist. He was a faithful soldier and he loved the Confederacy ardently. He was successful in politics, becoming Governor of Georgia and Senator of the United States, and head of the Confederate

Veterans. He was an orator and lecturer of great power, and altogether, from the close of reconstruction until his death his career has been a prolonged popular triumph.

General Hoke still lives, and may be he with us many a good year yet. His life is a model of lofty modesty. He has refused to put his fame and service as a soldier to private uses. He has preferred the life of a citizen. In a day of pitiful struggle for office and recognition he has followed the quiet life of a man with an honorable living to make. He is the highest type of the soldiers who returned to their devastated fields in late April and reaped a crop in September. He has worked diligently and with great success, contributing to the upbuilding of his State and nation. Of them all he presents the noblest after-war career, not superior indeed to that of Lee, but certainly not second to even Lee's.

Gen. Robert E. Lee's Sword.

Union Republican.

Mr. Geo. T. Dull, of Lewisville this county, whose post-office is Bower R. F. D. No. 1, has in his possession the sword of Gen. Robert E. Lee. presented to Gen. U. S. Grant at the surrender at Appomattox in April, 1865. Mr. Dull says that the facts relating to the sword and its identity are briefly told. When General Lee presented his sword to Gen. Grant on that eventful day the latter cast it aside and a Mr. Warren, one of Gen. Lee's staff, picked it up and brought it home with him. Some years ago Mr. Warren went North and left the sword with his son. Later his son sought a home in the West and before leaving gave the sword, with its story, to Mr. Dull, who was himself a gallant soldier in the Southern army and who highly prizes this memento marking as it does the close of that long and terrible struggle.

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