

PORT ARTHUR UNDER RUSSIA.

Promises to Become Really Impregnable.

About three years ago the world heard a lot about Port Arthur, China's impregnable naval arsenal and docks which had been constructed by German and French engineers regardless of cost. The Japanese took this place, as they took all else, in a scientific manner, and here the infamous atrocities were perpetrated which cast such a blot on the otherwise clean conduct of the Japanese campaign, but these cruelties were grossly exaggerated by the English press, and still it is but 40 years ago since the English, during the mutiny in India, fastened their prisoners to the cannon's mouth and blew them to pieces.

The Japanese, who had hitherto been kind and merciful to the conquered Chinese, and had treated the prisoners taken humanely, could not but be inflamed by the sight of their dead comrades mutilated in a manner such as only the fiendish ingenuity of the Chinese could devise.

As a peace condition Japan demanded Port Arthur, but Russia, backed by France and Germany, protested in such a formidable manner that the Japanese were compelled to relinquish it, along with the rest of the possessions they had demanded on the continent of Asia, and so the ruined port reverted to the Chinese, who did little to repair the destruction that had been wrought.

In the general scramble last spring, when China gave away most of her ports in the north, Kiau-Chou, Wei-Hai-Wei, Ta Lien Wan, and Port Arthur, the last two fell to the share of the Russians, and in six months they have transformed Port Arthur into a second Sebastopol.

From the sea the town is not visible, as it is approached through a narrow channel, shut in on either side by two frowning Gibraltars, bare hills, covered with enormous fortifications, which were built by the Chinese, and which the Russians are now completely revolutionizing and strengthening.

The crest of the hills is black with coolies, working night and day to render the so-called impregnable port really impregnable from an attack by sea. The quays of the military harbour are littered with guns and gun carriages of the latest design, and the remaining space is occupied by countless barrels of cement, all intended for the renovated fortification and for enlarging the famous dry-dock so as to enable the largest Russian warship to be docked, and surrounding the quays are the repair shops with lathes and every manner of improved machinery in perfect running order.

At night the whole port is brilliantly illuminated with lights giving a strange American appearance to this busy place in this far off land.

Still in this much coveted Port Arthur Russia did not as a point of fact; get much of a prize. She may be able to make it impregnable from sea attack, as it is well protected by nature on that side but the land is quite open and situated as it is on the extreme end of a narrow peninsula, an opposing force could completely isolate it from all communication by landing in the rear and either starve the place out or repeat the tactics employed by the French and English many years ago at Sebastopol.

The value of Port Arthur depends on the absolute necessity of keeping the communication with a base of supplies in the rear open, but this will be a very difficult task in

time of hostilities for isolated it could not stand a protracted siege, and a small blockading fleet could effectually bar the entrance from the sea, for the harbor at present can only hold a few ships.

In the port of Wei-Hai-Wei, England got the best prize in the Chinese grab-bag as she generally does. The Russianizing of Port Arthur has been like the transformation scene in a pantomime, the shops becoming Russian, with Russian signs, streets being filled with Russian vehicles, with the curious hoop above the horse's head the one time Chinese theatre becoming Muscovite.

Port Arthur contains a population of some 15,000 Chinese, and during the last six months Russia has been quietly stowing away some 8,000 soldiers of her own, some quartered in tents, and some in disused Chinese barracks, and also throughout the town every available house has been turned into officers' quarters, a strange medley of races and tongues coming from every part of the empire ruled over by the "White Czar," Cossacks from the Crimea, soldiers from Poland, St. Petersburg, and Moscow, and Mongols from the southern borders of Siberia.

The country about Port Arthur is for the most part swamps, alternating with bare hills and brown fields; no trees, no luxuriant vegetation, only here and there rectangular Chinese entrenched camps, with mud walls and towers at each corner, and rifle pits which the Japanese used during the siege.

On a bare hill stands the Japanese military cemetery, each grave indicated by a tall, white post with the fallen soldier's name inscribed in Japanese characters, a sad and silent reminder to the Russians of those days of struggle and glory for Japan, the fruits of which were stolen in the hour of victory and the Japanese ordered out by Russia, who at the time disclaimed all desire to have Port Arthur for herself.

The diplomatic thief was more shrewd than the brave fool, but some time soon Japan hopes to be able to retake Port Arthur and drive the Russian bear back to the frozen north, and if Japan does get the port for a second time Russian diplomacy will never play the trick again. Still, it was a good thing for Japan that she was not permitted to retain a foothold on the mainland of Asia, as the stakes would have been too high for her to play in this "continental" game, and would have been a constant and weakening drain on her strength and resources, every particle of which is needed in her own land to consolidate and modernize her empire and give her a firm basis on which to stand as a great power with some semblance of stability.

Even the Island of Formosa, which she got instead of a part of the mainland in China, has been a drag and an enormous tax on her strength, but the returns so far from the outlay on Formosa have been utterly inadequate. There are a number of points in striking similarity between Formosa and the Philippines as colonial possessions.

Port Arthur as a commercial harbour will never amount to much, although the Russians have an elaborate plan for constructing a commercial port by digging a canal and dredging a small lake separated from the rest of the harbour at present by a narrow strip of land; but this is all on paper, and will remain in that state for some time, to come.

It is said Port Arthur is to be the terminus of the trans-Siberian railway, but so far as commercial interests are concerned the terminus will be at Ta Lien Wan, 40 miles to the north, though for military and strategic

Coughs
That
Stick.

You don't seem to be able to throw them off. All the ordinary remedies you've tried don't touch them. The cough remedy for you is Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. It loosens the phlegm, allays the irritation, heals and soothes the inflamed lung tissue.

Mr. Wm. FERRY, Blenheim, Ont., says: "I can recommend Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup as the very best medicine for coughs and colds, sore throat and weak lungs."

**Dr. Wood's
Norway Pine
Syrup.**
Never fails to Cure.



reasons the final terminus will be at Port Arthur, and in less than two years American engines will be hauling freight, and Russian soldiers to that place.

China, by her reckless giving, will soon have no ports left in which her warships may ride at anchor, and the shores of the Bay of Pechill will bristle with the steel guns of foreign nations. Even now the waters are alive with foreign warships; the fleets of each nation, England, Russia, and Germany, having a convenient coaling station and repair docks near at hand.

The rulers of the destinies of China have choked to death their country with their cowardly hands. China can never again hope to make in the north the slightest show of prolonged resistance. The words of the boy Emperor are the ultimate expression of his impotency:—"To show the good relation which exists between myself and my great friends, the Queen of England, Emperors of Russia and Germany, I have decided to lease my harbour of Wei-Hai-Wei, Port Arthur, Ta-Lien Wan, and Kiau-Chou for a certain term of years."

Imagine how the American people would act if the President should hand over to foreign nations Boston, Charleston, and Galveston, to show his good feeling towards his European friends—a gibbet higher than Haman's would not suffice to punish him. Still this form of iniquity goes on in China with the least little protest from her people. The Russian Bear is creeping steadily nearer and nearer each day to Peking, and the final friendly hug will strangle China, and she will expire with a little gasp, and what Talleyrand, that old fox, said of Italy, will be really true of China, that "she is but a geographical expression."

LANGUID WOMEN

Take the Help that South American Nerve Offers and be Well, Strong and Happy.

Miss Lucinda Butcher, of Teeswater, Ont., had a very severe attack of malarial fever. It left her very weak, languid, and threatened with nervous prostration. South American Nerve was recommended to her and she tried it. After taking a few doses she felt great benefit. She continued taking it until six bottles were used, when, to use her own words, "I was completely restored to health. I can recommend it as a great remedy." Sold by Garden Bros.

No Care at All.

And now, said the wooing widower, after he had proposed, there are my children by my first wife.

The bride-elect simpered. Oh, the little darlings! she gushed. I won't mind them at all.

And she didn't either. There's many a true word spoken in earnest.

Nothing so effective for checking severe Coughs, and Colds as Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. Price 25c., all dealers.

Obeying the Law.

"Look at him!" exclaimed the police justice. "Why, you've nearly killed him!"

"Well, your honor," answered the prisoner, "I thought, under the new revenue law, I ought to stamp him."—Chicago Post.

Old England's Flag vs. Dr. A. W. Chase.

The virtues of Dr. Chase's remedies are known the world over and like old England's flag the sun on them never sets. Dr. Chase's Ointment, Kidney-Liver Pills, Catarrh Cure, Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine and Liver Cure enjoy the confidence of everybody. They have won their way into the public favor on merit. Their sterling qualities and high standing and purity have made them the household word all round the world. All dealers sell and recommend them.

A quaint old gentleman, of an active, inquiring disposition, had a man that worked in his garden who was quite the reverse. "Jones," said he, "did you ever see a snail?" "Certainly," said Jones. "Then," said the old man, "you must have met him; for you could never have overtaken him."

Gotroks—Here, Patrick; here's a fat little pig for Christmas roasting. Pat, gratefully—Thank ye, sor; it's just like ye, sor! Mrs. Hunt—From what I hear of your husband I should infer he is a man of iron will. Mrs. Blunt—You're right it is, and pig iron at that.

THE WOODSTOCK
WOODWORKING COMPANY
LIMITED.

—MANUFACTURERS OF—

**Church Pews, Doors,
School Desks, Windows,
Sheathing, Mouldings,
Shop Fronts, Flooring,**

And every variety of Finish for Houses and Churches.

**Window and Door Screens,
INCREASED FACILITIES.**

SHINGLES AND CLAPBOARDS FOR SALE.

CONFEDERATION LIFE
ASSOCIATION

OF TORONTO.

Established 1871.

Income \$1,200,000.

Policies Unconditional. Extended Insurance and
Paid Up Policy after TEN years. Low Rates.
Profits Unexcelled.

WENDELL P. JONES,
Special Agent.

G. W. PARKER,
Gen. Agent.

Eat
Wholesome
Meat

And be happy. Well killed,
well taken care of, is all our
meat. Your wife can cook
it well and you will thrive
on it.

**Roast, Steak,
Lamb, Fresh Pork,
Sausages, Tripe,
Liver, Bacon,
Pressed Corned Beef.**

We can give you anything in this line
usually kept in cold storage.
Telephone 182.

BROWN & RAYMOND,
Connell Street, Woodstock.

FLOWERS.

Roses and Carnations, Floral
Emblems and Bouquets,
At Thomas Troy's Greenhouse.

Also, House Plants of every description,
Bedding Out Plants, Cabbage Plants. Cauli-
flower, Tomato, Celery and Cucumbe Plants
ready 1st of May. All orders promptly at-
tended to

THOMAS TROY,
Opp. L.P. Fisher, Main St. Woodstock, N.B.

Painting and Decorating.

For Good Workmanship in
House and Sign Painting,
Paper Hanging, Etc.,
Calsomining, Alabastine Work.

You can count on getting a good job of
work done at reasonable prices. Give me a
call or write post card.

C. P. PARKER, PRACTICAL PAINTER,
North End Richmond Street,
WOODSTOCK, N. B.

FARMERS'
INSTITUTE
MEETINGS.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF
THE NEW BRUNSWICK DEPART-
MENT OF AGRICULTURE

AND
THE FARMERS' AND DAIRYMEN'S
ASSOCIATION OF N. B.

Meetings will be held in Victoria and
Carleton Counties at following places on dates
mentioned.

Jan. 31.—Andover, Victoria Co.,
evening session.
Feb. 1.—Kincairdine, Victoria Co.,
afternoon and evening session.
" 2.—Arthurette, Victoria Co.,
evening session.
" 3.—New Denmark, Victoria Co.,
evening session.
" 4.—Florenceville West, Car. Co.,
evening session.
" 6.—Glassville, Carleton Co.,
evening session.
" 7.—Jacksonville, Carleton Co.,
evening session.
" 8.—Richmond Corner, Car. Co.,
evening session.
" 9.—Millville, York Co.,
evening session.
"Pork Raising for English Bacon Pur-
poses," "Fruit Growing" and "Poultry
Raising" will be among the subjects dis-
cussed—A full programme will be later an-
nounced. Everybody is asked to attend these
meetings and ladies are especially invited.
C. H. LABILLE, W. W. HUBBARD,
Com'r of Agriculture. Cor. Sec'y
F. & D. Assoc'n.

General House
Finishing.

DOORS,
WINDOWS,
MOULDINGS,
FLOORING,
SHEATHING,
SCHOOL DESKS,
CHURCH WORK.

James E. Barter & Co.
Avondale, N. B.

Nature's Own
Dyspepsia Cure

Nature's remedies are not like man's—they never fail. Of the many remedies intended to cure dyspepsia, sour stomach, distress after eating, weight in the stomach, wind on the stomach, loss of appetite, dizziness, nausea, impoverished blood, catarrh of the stomach, sick headache, and similar results of indigestion, only one is uniformly and unfailingly successful—that is nature's own remedy, found only in

DR. VON STAN'S PINEAPPLE TABLETS.

The pineapple contains a large amount of Vegetable Pepsin—nature's most potent aid in digesting food. Mix meat and pineapple and agitate the mixture at a temperature of 103°, and the pineapple will completely digest the meat.

Take two of Dr. Von Stan's Pineapple Tablets after your meals and they will digest your food without aid from the stomach. This course rests, strengthens and heals the stomach. The tablets will cure the most chronic case of dyspepsia. They give immediate relief. Take them for a short time and your stomach will be as strong and hearty as that of a farmer's boy.

They are as pleasant to the palate as candy.
At all druggists.—35c. a box—or direct from

THE VON STAN MEDICINE CO.,
Toronto, Can., and Buffalo, N.Y. 1

FOR SALE BY GARDEN BROS.