

Tokio Continues its Quiet Work of Sending Army after Army to the Front, Fully Recognizing the Gigantic Task that Has Been Undertaken by Japan.

# By FREDERICK PALMER (Collier's Correspondent with the Japanese Ceneral Staff.)

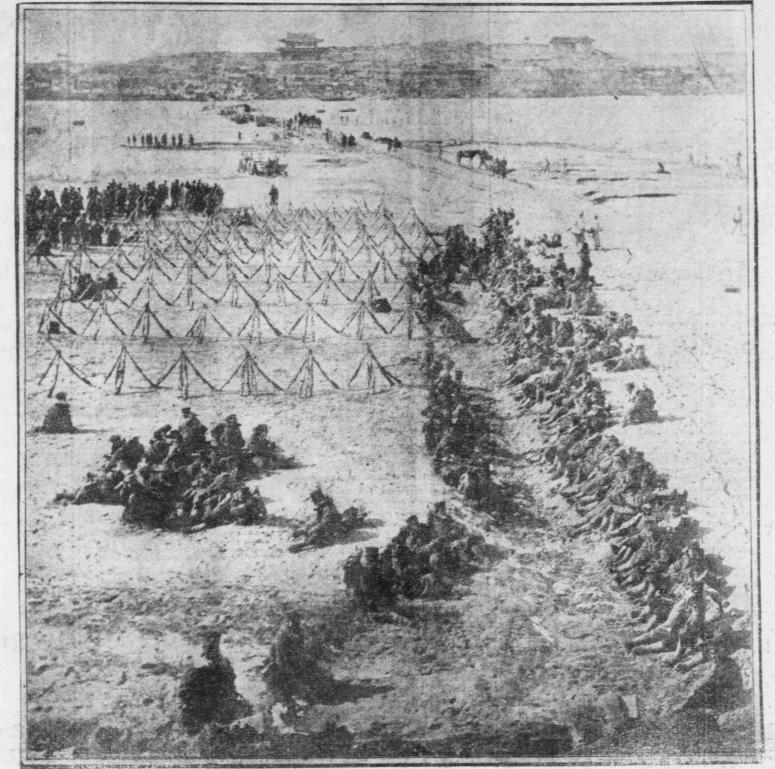
Tokio, March 15, 1904. E HAVE RECEIVED the first home papers with accounts of the early days of the war. They convince us of what we had supposed from the first: that New York and London are far more excited over the war than Reading the pages and pages of wild accounts, Tokio. wildly illustrated, a foreign resident exclaimed: "What a devil of a row they are making about it."

devil of a row they are making about it." It takes imagination for any dweller in this peaceful town to realize that he is in the capital of a nation en-gaged in the most stupendous struggle of modern times. Last week I wrote that we were still waiting; this week I write the same. Nominally, at least, the correspondents have made a little progress. The general staff has selected five American and eight British correspondents, who are to proceed to the front as a first contingent. Mr. Yokoy-ama tells us this morning that we must be ready to start on the 20th. Mr. Yokoyama is our impresario--the con-tractor who is going to supply us with European food and bring up our transport on the campaign. On the 20th he hopes to have us, our horses, our tents, and our blanket rolls all aboard a small steamer, which will sail under scaled orders. Soon thereafter we shall at least see sold-iers in the field. iers in the field.

sealed orders. Soon thereafter we shall at least see sold-iers in the field. But many weeks may pass before we see any fighting. The winter campaign, which delighted the fearful fancy of some of the rumor-mongers on the China coast, seems no more in he domain of military practice in the Orient than in the Occident. We know enough to know that the period of preparation is not yet complete. It goes without saying that the navy could strike without a moment's warning. It could be on a war footing without exciting suspicion. The army went as far as it might without making the country's intention clear. Each new develop-ment of the situation reveals still others than the first apparent reason for the timeliness of initiating operations as soon as the Nisshin and the Kasuga had left Singapore. A war begun in winter was quite unexpected to the Rus-sian navy, which we now know was thoroughly taken by surprise. A war begun in winter serves the Japanese army, because Japan can make better use of the interven-ing time before the weather permits actual campaigning than Russia can. With the warm days of April, Japan will be ready to strike on land. Will, Russia be ready to each with as little warning as those of the may. The city was no sooner empty of one but of reservists than another atmeared. In the bast few days we have

and with as fittle warning as those of the mayy. The city was no sooner empty of one lot of reservists than another appeared. In the last few days we have seen a repetition of the scenes of the first week of the war. Another army has sprung out of kimonos into blouses. Many of the members are veterans. The medals which they wear tell of battles against the Chinese in 1844-55. They will assist to make again the conquest of pround which they once won. Some of them are successfor

1844-56. They will assist to make against the Conquest of ground which they once won. Some of them are stooped with hard labor, but, even more than the younger men who have gone before them, they perhaps have the quality which wins victories. They are married, and, of course, being Japanese, have large families. One incident, not characteristic of all, but, neverthe-less, significant of the steel that is in the blood of a race which satrifices everything to patriotism: When one of the twelve-year men was called, he succeeded in placing all of his children in the care of relatives except one little girl. None could take her. So, doing what seemed to him a mercy and a duty, he cut her throat. It is said that the ocfflers praised him for the deed. According to their view, he loved his child so much that he would not see view, he loved his child so much that he would not see her suffer, but he loved his country more. Of course, he expects to be killed. His farewell to his family was for



-Photograph by R. L. Dunn, Collier's special war photographer in Korea. Photograph copyright 1904 by Collier's Weekly. Japanese Infantry Waiting to Enter Ping-Yang.

St. Petersburg Looks Forward Calmly and Confidently to the Concentration of a Great Army Which Must, the Russians Believe, Eventually Crush Japan.

# By JOHN C. O'LAUGHLIN (Collier's Special War Correspondent at St. Petersburg.)

St. Petersburg. March 22 N THE UNIFORM of a Cossack general, Czar Nicho-las reviewed the other day a regiment of infantry, which swung by the Winter Palace under orders to the far east. A few minutes later, dressed as a cap-tain of the navy, the emperor drove to the new admiralty yard and inspected the warships which are be-ing rushed to completion there. It will not be the fault of his majesty should there not be in Manchuria and Asiatic waters, within the next few months, a military and naval force superior to that of the Japanese. To his officers he must intrust the utilization of the instruments which he is placing in their hands.

officers he must intrust the utilization of the instruments which he is placing in their hands. These two acts of the experience ordinarily of little im-portance, brought to mind the question which all St. Petersburg has been discussing since the outbreak of the war: What is Russia's plan of operations? The English journals arriving in St. Petersburg contain the wildest speculation upon what is a simple matter to the Russian strategists, at least so far as concerns the method of ef-fecting Japan's defeat. "First," I was told. "Russia will mass in Manchuria an army superior to the Japanese. She will place in Asiatic waters a fleet superior to that of her enemy. Then Japan will be taught that it is not advisable to thrust war upon a nation that desired peace, and which offered humiliating concessions in the hope of preserving it."

Every military expert knows that the question of men Every military expert knows that the question of men-does not concern Russia; it is the question of supplying those finally concentrated upon the battlefield which is causing chief concern. General Kuropatkin has particul-arly charged himself to look after his army's communica-tions, and bis experience as chief of staff in past wars will be invaluable to him in the campaign upon which he is about to embark. The railroad has its own special guard, and wherever necessary additional troops will be assigned to protect the line. Port Arthur and Vladivostok have strong garrisons, well equipped and armed, and supplied with food. There remain, available for active operations, almost 300,000 men, who have been organized into three divisions—the strongest, of about 125,000, occupying well-fortfiled strategic positions upon the Yala river; the divisions-the strongest, of about 125,000, occupying well-fortified strategic positions upon the Yala river; the second holding a central position between the extreme left of the first division and Vladivostok, which will stop a flank movement from the Sea of Japan, and the third intrenched so as to prevent operations by a force disem-barking at the head of the Liaotung gulf. Among these three divisions are 50,000 Cossacks, incomparably mounted. "Wait till the Cossacks get at them," the average Russian will tell you. "The Japanese can not stand up against them. The Cossacks are as great devils today as they ever were. They are armed with fine carbines and long swords, and they will be able to move rapidly. The South African war taught the value of mobility in mili-tary operations,"

South African war taught the value of mobility in mili-tary operations," General Kuropatkin recognizes that this army is not large enough. Before he left St. Petersburg he asked for a fighting force of 600,000 men. His request was not fully complied with. He was informed that he should have 400,000 men, with a reserve of 200,000. As rapidly as a single track railroad will permit, this army is being mobilized in Manchuria. The trains are running regularly, and for the Trans-Siberian railroad, smoothly. The maxi-mum estimate of the number of troops arriving daily upon the scene of operations is 6,000. The minimum is 3,000. I should say that an average of 4,000 men are daily being despatched to Mukden or some other convenient point. The larger the army, the greater the quantity of supplies that must be shipped to it, and the fewer the trains that can be sent with troops. Consequently, June will have arrived before General Kuropatkin will have his army at can be sent with troops. Consequently, June will have arrived before General Kuropatkin will have his army at the strength determined upon. Turning now to the navy, some facts have come to

my attention which will have an important bearing upon

expects to be killed. His farewell to his family was for eternity. They will boast far more of a father who died in battle than of a father who fought and still lived. There is another story of two men who were missing when the company was lined up for roll call. One of them was found. He explained that family affairs had detained him, and he had had no real intention of deserting. "If that is so," said the officer in charge, "you-can prove it by taking your own life." The man drew his small knife and declared his willing-ness to plunge it into his abdomen there and then. But hara-kiri is against the law, as well as against the spirit of modern Japan. "Since you want to die for your coun-try, you may," said the officer. "We will take you back into the ranks." These are two of many stories going the rounds, which, if difficult of verification by the foreigner with his limited means, none the less show the temper of the people and the times. people and the times.

Nothing is more significant of where the news in the ne papers comes from than the infrequency and the brevity of the dispatches from Tokio. The cable corres-pondent never saw how his dispatches were sent. The authorities cut out whatever they thought undesirable, and, with these eliminations, whether it made sense or not, the dispatch was sent. No malignity was intended by this, for Japan is unused to a censorship, being a free ountry and having none in time of peace. When the cable correspondent pointed out the unfairness of the method, they expressed their willingness to remedy it. An arrangement is to be made whereby the writer may see the elisions, and at least make sense of the message before it is sent. The truth is that there is little to send in Tokio except facts and official reports. You can hear more except nacts and unctain reports. For can near more rumors in an hour in Shanghai than in a week here. All the rumors from every Chinese port are sent by the in-defatigable army of news venders. Never has the world seen so many wild reports as those that appear in the home papers. We here wondered how the sixteen-page rearning edition was to fill the space which the importance of the war demanded. Now we understand the secret at the war demanded. Now we understand the secret at a same time that we foresee heavy dividends for the uning year for all the cable companies in the Orient. Probably the spread heads give no one more satisfaction than the officers of the general staff. Anything that leads to confusion of information serves their purpose—the general staff working so quietly, so quietly, so quietly.

#### Japanese Not Over-Confident.

What is now most impressive to the foreigner is that the elation of victory has left no aftermath of over-con-fidence. Before the naval engagements the Japanese asked themselves the question, "What if Russia should win on the sea?" They took all possibilities into con-sideration. Now that the sea is clear, now that the first premise is assured, they do not look to easy victories on the land. Instead of saying, "We are going to Harbin," they ask the foreigner politely. "Can we go to Harbin?" (In their hearts they may be perfectly sure that they can; for no man has yet fathomed the potentialities behind the (In their hearts they may be perfectly sure that they can; for no man has yet fathomed the potentialities behind the Japanese smile.) I have talked with no intelligent Japan-ese who did not fully realize that the land, not the sea, was the Russian's patural element. The attinue of the officers themselves recalls the remark of an ensign of our

officers themselves recails the remark of an ensign of our squadron at Santiago. "When I saw the Spanish ships coming out," he said, "I remember thinking that in ten minutes the scuppers would be running with blood. When it was all over I couldn't quite realize that I was still alive." The Japanese expect carnage in Manchuria; nothing more or less. They are counting upon gigantic battles and "they are to their work with the stim de-

heavy losses. They go to their work with the grim de-termination of one to whom the cost is clear. If they have swept across the railway behind Port Arthur by the first of July, as many of their admirers expect that they will, without an appalling list of dead and wounded, the average officer will be surprised. Perhaps the general staff will not be. We fancy that Kodama knows all. He knows net only where the landings will be made, but where the battles will be fought. The Japanese officers dressed as battles will be fought. The Japanese officers dressed as Chinese, who are acting as spies, n.ast keep the general stafi informed as to every Russian movement. They can slip back into Korea or New Chuang with their news, and once it is in Japanese territory it flies over a wire held ex-clusively for government purposes. It is impossible for a Russian to be a spy in Japan. He can adopt no disguise which will deceive the native. The movements of every foreigner are known. If he is at all suspected he is never out of sight of the police. If he goes on forbidden ground or does a forbidden thing he is instantly warned—with or does a forbidden thing he is instantly warned-with the omnipresent smile, of course. This land of 45,000 000 inhabitants is like a club: Only members can get past the doorkeeper. The intelligence work of the general staff, like most of the inside history of the war, will never be written. No one knows the names of the three officers

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The picture shows a company of the Fourteenth infantry resting on the frezen sand by the side of the highway over which they marched 130 miles northward from Seoul. The clumsy native ferry crossing the Tai-Tong river at this point. Son Klohi, was helpless for troop transport, and the force was in bivouae while the engineers and sapper companies, and hundreds of Korean coolies, threw a bridge across this approach to Plng-Yang. The bridge-building activity is visible in the background of the photograph. The march of these troops from Seoul to Ping-Yang was made along the ancient road to Peking, which was a quagmire most of the distance, crowded with cavalry, infantry, pack-trains, bullock-carts, and long trains of white-cla natives, burdened with bags of provisions. plotding kneedeep through slush and mud. Freezing by night stumbling and slipping all day, each soldier carrying sixty pounds of equipment, this infantry column was swept along at a speed of from fifteen to twenty-five miles a day. This heroic advance will be no longer necessary with the ice out of the bay at Chenumpol where troops can be landed from transports and towed in small boats up the Tai-Tong river to Ping-Yang. This heroict will be held indefinitely by a large Japan-ese force to guard the line of retreat from the Yaha, and against a possible Russian invasior of Korea along the great highway.

BOTTLED UP IN TOKIO WHERE NO ONE HEARS

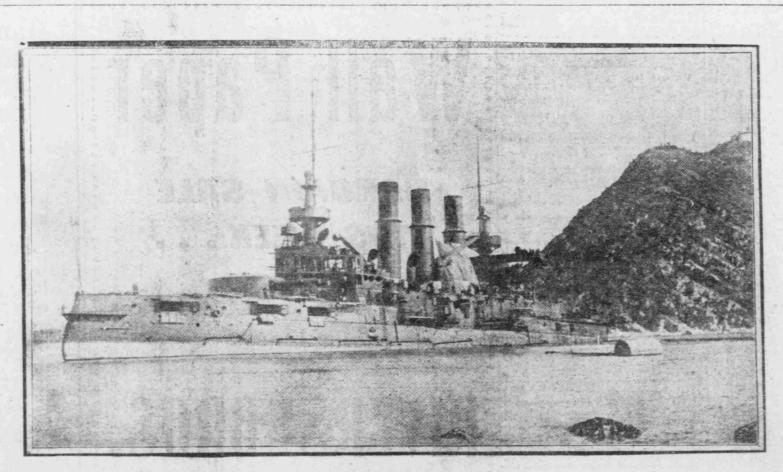
### By RICHARD HARDING DAVIS, Collier's Special War Correspondent in Japan

N NEW YORK, the writer was one of the mistaken few who prophesied there would be no war. In Tokio, he is inclined to that there is no war. He admits when he was in New York there was a war. War filled the front page of all the morning papers. In the afternoon editions its three letters, in sanguinary pink ink, were writ large from margin to margin. Stocks were affected. Insurance rates became prohibitive. Packing houses were working overtime, and the Missouri mule loomed into a national asset. Every man you met was as intimately familiar with the number of guns in the secondary batteries of the Retvizan and the Shikishima as with the number of his own telephone. Wherever you saw two men talking together it was safe to wager one was saying. "They are a wonderful little people," and that the other was replying, "Yes, but don't forget that in '64 the Rooshian fleet sailed right up the lower bay and saved the Union." There, in New York, war was the only topic. People asked you if you were going to "the front" as janutily as though "the front" were situated somewhere between Seventy-sec-ond street and Grant's Tomb. When we crossed the continent, cowboys rode

, out of an alkali desert to ask what was the latest from "the war." At water N NEW YORK, the writer was one of the mistaken few who prophesied there would be no war. In Tokio, he is inclined to go further and protest hat there is no war. He admits when he was in New York there was a ar. War filled the front page of all the morning papers. In the afternoon kits to the beliboys in the Palace hotel. When the China unloaded 700 tons of kits to the believes in the Palace note!. When the China unloaded do tons of "contraband of war," and Japanese crowded the wharf to wave farewells to their fellow countrymen, who were off to fight, and the San Francisco band played for them "The Girl I Left Behind Me," we all tried to look cheerful and said, as though we liked it, "Well, this is the real thing at last." But somewhere between Honolulu and Yokahoma, somewhere in the deep-

est part of the Pacific, we lost the war overboard, and we have neither seen it nor heard of it since. I do not mean to say that if you go to the war office here you will not see the sentry, nor do I dony that if you go inside you will see two orderlies. You also will be received by various officials, grave, courteous generals, each apparently doing nothing by himself, in a large bare room hung with a trap or two. He apparently has plenty of leisure, certainly enough of it to enable him to be polite. But he has no time to discuss the probability

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# The Russian Battleship "Retvizan" on the Rocks at the Harbor Entrance, Port Arthur.

This vessel was one of the three warships that were torpedoed by the Japanese on the night of Feb. 5, the opening engagement of the war. She was run ashore in a sinking condition, but settled in shallow water and has done service in subsequent engagements, acting as a floating battery. She has been of much assistance in defeating Admiral Togo's attempts to block the Larbor entrance. The "Retvizan" was ballt at the Cramps' shipyard in Philadelphia in 1300, and was one of the best ships in the Russian navy.

The assignment of four cruisers to Vladivostok, and The assignment of both clusters to clusters to the darkowstok, and the damages sustained by the Retvizar, Carevitch, and Pallada, rendered the Russian Asiatic fleet inferior to that of Admiral Togo. The Pallada, which was gotten into deck, is again in active service. The Czarevitch, which had a large section of her bottom ripped out by the ex-plosion of the torpedo—the hole is said to have had an area of LTS square feet—is on pontoons in the harbar and area of 178 square feet—is on pontoons in the harbor and cannot be repaired in time for the projected fleet opera-tions. Repairs are being pushed upon the Retvizan, which tions. Repairs are being pushed upon the Retvizah, which can be considered again as a part of the effective Rus-sian force. There is no truth in rumors circulated abroad that the guns of the Retvizah have been removed and in-stalled in a shore battery. The Russians are consequently interior to what they were before war commenced by but me battleship and two cruisers—the Variag, sunk at Chemulpo, and the Boyarin, destroyed by mines, and a tew torpedo-boat destroyers. Nevertheless the fleet will not participate in offensive operations, but for the present will remain, undamaged, it is hoped, under the guns of Port Arthur

Russia believes that Japan's fate will be decided by the new fleet, which is to be formed in the Baltic, and which will arrive in the far east the last of July or early in August. This fleet will comprise five first-class and three second-class battleships, one armored and five proterede second-class battleships, one annoted and the pro-tected cruisers, six auxiliary cruisers, twenty-one tor-pedo-boat destroyers, and a number of oil ships and col-liers. The battleships are the Imperator Alexander III, Orel, Kniaz Suvaroff-all of which are under construction -the Borodino, and the Osliabya, Sissoi Veliky, Navarin, and Imperator Nicolai I, which are in commission. The Decoding Alexander Orel and Suvaria are sister chief and Imperator Nicolai I, which are in commission. The Borodino, Alexander, Orel, and Suvaroff are sister ships, each of 14,000 tons, 18 knots speed, well armored, and carrying four 12-inch, twelve 6-inch, forty smaller guns, and six torpedo tubes. The Borodino is ready at the new admiralty yard and was inspected by the emperor, but her draft is so great that in order to get her out of the New 4 will be proceeding to remove her turnet guns and the her draft is so great that in order to get her out of the Neva it will be necessary to remove her turret guns and install them again at Cronstadt. The Orel, building at Galernii Island, near St. Petersburg, will also receive her guns at Cronstadt. The Alexander and Suvaroff are building at Cronstadt. The Slava, of this class, will not be ready for at least a year. While not as speedy as the Japanese Yashima and Fuil, these ships are superior in protection and armament. They are also inferior in speed to the other Japanese battleships, and there is not much difference in their protection and armament. The Osli-abya is of 13,000 tons—about that of the Yashima; her speed is a knot less, and her battery is inferior. The Sissoi Veliky is of 9,000 tons and was built ten years ago. Her armor is partly of the old compound type, and her main battery includes four 12-inch and six 6-inch rapid-fire guns. The Navarin is older than the Sissoi, but is of fire guns. The Navarin is older than the Sissoi, but is of hre guns. The Navarin is older than the Sissoi, but is of the same speed-16 knots—and has a main battery of four 12-inch and eight 6-inch breech-loading guns, for which rapid firers may be substituted. The Imperator Nicolai I is of 9.800 tons and has combound armor; her battery combrises two 12-inch, four 9-inch, and eight 6-inch guns. all breech-loaders. The Sissoi, Navarin, and Nicolai are inferior to the Jananese armored cruisers. inferior to the Japanese armored cruisers.

## Ships of the Baltic Fleet.

There is but one armored cruiser available for the new Russian fleet—the Baltic fleet, as it is called. This is the Dmitri Donskoi, built twenty years ago and partially reconstructed in 1885. The Dmitri Donskoi is only of 5,900 reconstructed in 1885. The Dmitri Donskoi is only of 5,900 tons, her greatest speed is 15.5 knots, and her heaviest guns are only six inches in calibre. The protected cruisers which will be attached to the fleet will be the Oleg, under construction, of 6,50 tons, 23 knots, and carrying twelve 6-inch and twenty-four smaller guns; Aurora, a sister ship of the Pallada, of 6,630 tons, 29 knots, and eight 6-inch and thirty smaller guns: Svietlana, of 3,828 tons, 29 knots, six 5.9-inch and twelve smaller guns; Jemtchug and Izumrud, each of 3,009 tons, 25 knots, and six 4.7 inch and ten smaller guns.

and izumfrud, each of 3,009 tons, 25 knots, and six 4.7 meh and ten smaller guns. In anticipation of the despatch of this fleet to the far east, men are being drilled, especially in gunnery, in the Baltic training squadron, "The Japanese are getting plenty of practice by their bombardments of Port Arthur," said an officer to me. "It was this practice that enabled the American squadron to do such effective work at the American squadron to do such effective work at Santiago when the Spanish squadron attempted to escape. Unfortunately, the men of the Baltic fleet will not be under fire until they go into action. For this reason they are required to participate in constant target practice, and the Japanese will not find any green gunners upon which to try their mettle." The commander of the fleet will be Admiral Rojestvensky, a man in whom the em-peror and the naval service have the greatest confidence.

(Continued on Pake 4, Section 2.)