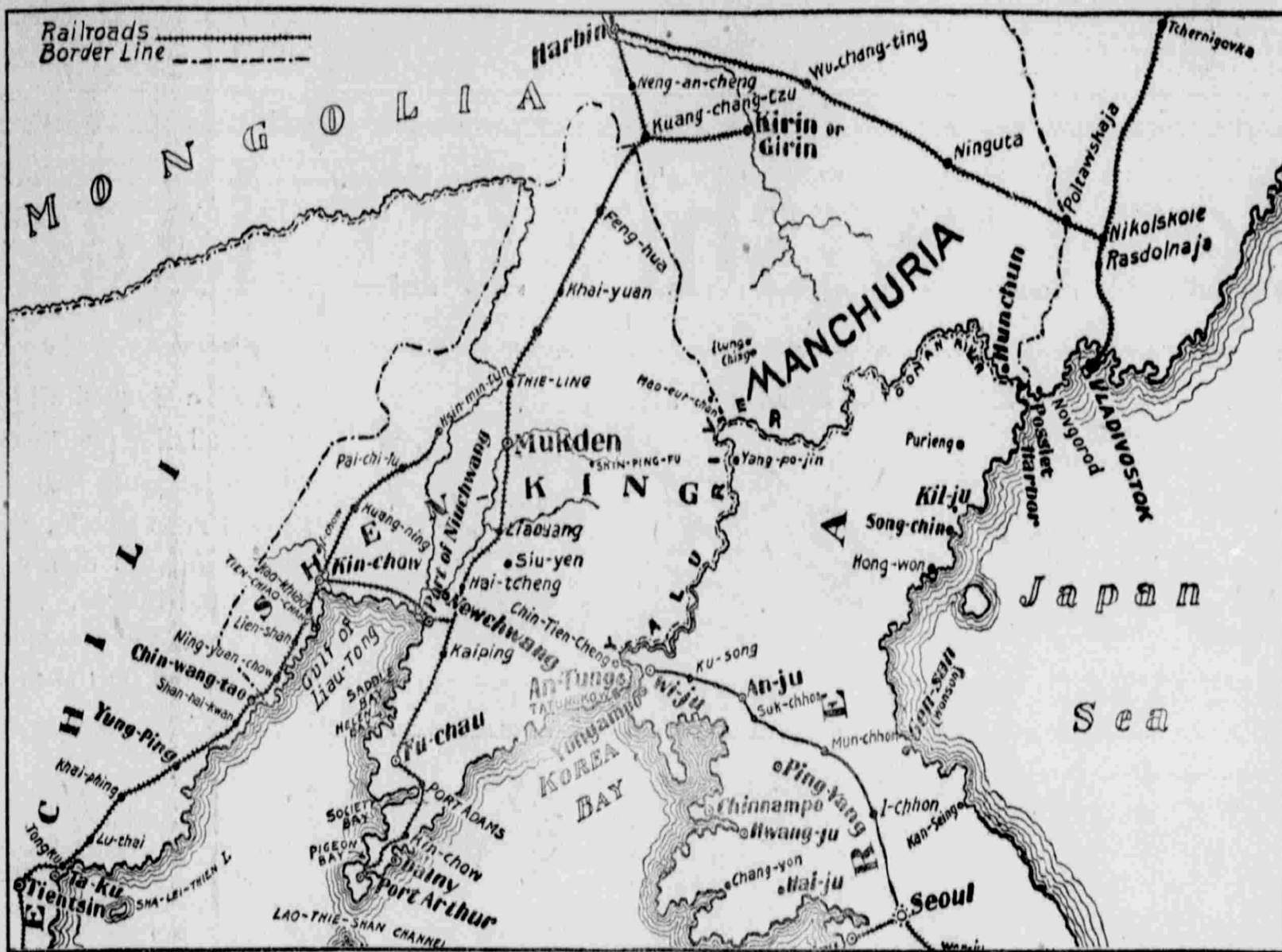


Points of Strategic Importance on the Asiatic Mainland; Siberian and Manchurian Cities Occupied by Russia

THE chief cities of Manchuria and the three Siberian cities of Vladivostok, Khabarovsk and Blagovestchensk, on or near the Manchurian frontier, are just now of interest to the world at large for the reason that they are points of great strategic value in the Russo-Japanese war. All of these places at present are under Russian control and act as the military bases for that country.

Manchuria, like all China, is full of small villages, and in addition to the small towns are a number of stations that have newly sprung into existence along the Manchurian railway. Any one of these smaller places may be one of the most important in the war, but for immediate purposes it is only necessary to take into account a comparatively few of the more considerable cities. These are Port Arthur, at the southern terminus of the Manchurian railway; Dainy, a station thirty-five miles up the line; Fuchow, another station at a bend of the railroad; Newchwang, its port, at the head of the Liaotung peninsula, lying a short distance off the road, but connected therewith by a spur; Liao-yang, a station further north; Mukden, the capital of Manchuria, also a station on the same road; Harbin, at the junction of the Manchurian branch and the main line of the Chinese Eastern; Tientsin, further west on the main line; Vladivostok, the eastern terminus of the road; Khabarovsk, lying on the Amur river and at the northern terminus of the Ussuri branch of the Chinese Eastern; and Blagovestchensk, which has no railway connection, but is considerably west on the Amur, the stream that forms the northern boundary of Manchuria.

Along the Manchurian bank of the Yalu river, which forms the boundary line between that country and Korea, there are no very large cities. Antung is the most considerable. The two main ports near the mouth of that stream—Tientsin and the Korean side—are both under Russian control and will doubtless prove important points. Near the eastern coast, still on the Manchurian side of the boundary between that country and Korea, is the town of Hunchun, lying but a short distance from Vladivostok. As Hunchun is also near Possiet bay, it is a situation of great strategic value in any campaign undertaken in the east.



MAP SHOWING THE PRESENT MILITARY AREA IN THE EAST.

Returning to the area of actual fighting, Port Arthur is by all odds the point of chief strategic importance, whether considered from the viewpoint of a sea or a land campaign. It is the key to the Liaotung peninsula and thus to all Manchuria. With the naval fortification of Port Arthur the reading public is already fairly familiar, but it is not generally known that it is almost as well protected from a land attack, being only approached by means of a very narrow isthmus. The only method of forcing the capitulation of Port Arthur would seem to be to cut the Manchurian railroad, enforce a complete sea blockade and starve it into submission.

Russia has spent millions in developing Port Arthur from a naval standpoint, but very little to develop it in a commercial way. Exactly the opposite is true of Dainy, the port and station thirty-five miles above. Here a city of

40,000 has sprung into being at the flat of the czar. Dainy is unquestionably destined to become one of the best commercial ports in the far east. It also possesses considerable strategic value in the present war, though not nearly so well defended or so desirable a prize as Port Arthur. In an investment of the latter, both Dainy and Pigeon bay, lower down and across the peninsula, would become points of attack.

Fuchow, lying at the bend of the Manchurian railway further north, is important in the fact that it lies near the west coast of the peninsula and might be used as a point of attack in an attempt to secure control of the road. It should not be confused with the Fuchow, the great city, lying in one of the southern Chinese provinces. The Manchurian Fuchow is not nearly so large as that vice royal capital.

Newchwang is one of the important ports of Manchuria. It is a city of over 60,000 inhabitants. Though in the hands of the Russians it has not become so thoroughly identified with that country as most of the other places mentioned. It is not on the Manchurian railway proper, but is connected therewith. Newchwang might very readily become an objective of Japanese attack, as its position at the head of the Liaotung gulf is a commanding one.

Liao-yang, over fifty miles north of Newchwang and about forty miles south of Mukden, is not so large as either. It lies on the Manchurian railway at the point of junction with the projected line to Peking. It commands the approach to Mukden and for that reason has been very strongly fortified by the Russians.

Mukden, the capital of Manchuria, is a very ancient city and contains over 150,000 inhabitants. It was formerly the seat of the emperors of China and is yet a vice royal town. The Russians have not made any large settlements here, but their armies are present in force and are strongly entrenched.

Harbin, the junction city where the two railways meet, is one of the wonders of modern urban evolution. It has literally sprung up in a night. No American city ever grew with greater rapidity. A few years ago it was but a frontier station. Today it contains over 100,000 inhabitants, and more are constantly coming. Moreover, it is an industrial city and almost wholly Russian. Because of these two characteristics it is called "the Moscow of the east." It is safe to say that, though she loses all else, Russia will make her last stand at Harbin and fight to the death to hold it.

Tsitsikar is another growing Russian town in Manchuria, lying on the main line of the railway farther to the northwest. It would become important as a supply station for Harbin in case that city were attacked.

Kirin lies to the southeast of Harbin, at the end of a spur of the Manchurian railway. It would naturally become a defensive key in a campaign against the larger city.

Vladivostok was formerly Russia's chief city in the far east and is still of the utmost importance from both an industrial and military point of view. It is the key to Siberia, as Port Arthur is the key to Manchuria. Because of its contiguity to Korea it would form the natural base of a Russian attack on that country. For this reason it is the more liable to attack from Japan. Vladivostok is not only a great port, but is the eastern terminus of Russia's Transsiberian railway system.

From a point a short distance out of Vladivostok branches off the Northern, or Ussuri, railway to Khabarovsk, a city of 15,000 that is an important supply station to Vladivostok. Khabarovsk is situated on the Siberian side of the Amur river.

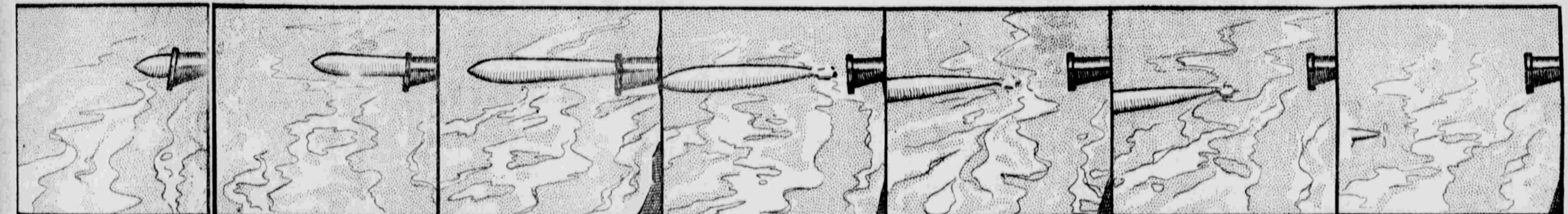
A considerable distance west on the same stream is the yet larger city of Blagovestchensk, which has grown from a village of a few years ago to a place of over 30,000. This is also an important supply station.

ROGER P. BARNUM.

JULES VERNE'S OWN ROMANCE.

The story of Jules Verne's courtship and marriage is a most romantic one. Verne was a shy young fellow who had a great dislike to the society of women, and it was only his affection for his brother which led him to go to the latter's wedding. Verne, however, arrived too late and found that the whole bride party had left for the church with the exception of the bride's sister, a charming young widow, who explained the matter. The friendship thus accidentally begun rapidly developed into a warmer feeling and ended in a marriage which may be described as ideal.

How the Deadly Whitehead Torpedo Leaves the Tube



THE hornet that issues forth from his paper house and goes as straight and almost as fast as a bullet for the small boy's nose is the only thing in nature that even approximately resembles the modern torpedo. There is this difference, however: The sound made by the land hornet is more painful, but when the sea hornet stings the skin of a battleship it is usually fatal. There are other differences, as the Russian sailors at Port Arthur could eloquently testify. Here is shown one of these innocent looking projectiles just pushing its nose out of the tube.

THE Whitehead torpedo—for that is the sort used by both Russia and Japan—is made of steel or phosphor bronze and is shaped like a porpoise, with the large end in front. It is from fourteen to eighteen feet long and from fourteen to eighteen inches in diameter at the thickest part. It is divided into eight sections, of which the first, or one nearest the head, consists of the firing arrangement. This is a pointed rod, with the blunt end extending from the head and the point reaching into the second or explosive chamber. The snapshots show the missile being launched on its way of death.

THE "baby," as it is called by the seamen, has emerged a trifle farther from its cradle. It is a rather active infant, remarkable alike for intelligence and pugnacity. When ever its nose strikes a hard substance it goes all at pieces and leaves behind it an aching void. The second section of its body, containing the explosive chamber, consists of a detonator cap made of fulminate of mercury and a liberal charge of gun cotton. As the point of the pin is driven into the cap the fulminate ignites, expands to 2,500 times its former size and in turn explodes the gun cotton.

THE subdued and peculiar sound made by the tube in expelling the torpedo is called a "cough." This is appropriate for the reason that the firing is done by means of compressed air, which also furnishes the motor power inside the missile. It must be borne in mind that after being launched the projectile becomes a sort of submarine boat, and navigating itself automatically through the water. The third section, or compressed air chamber, furnishes the power. The walls of this section are made to withstand a pressure of 1,700 pounds to the square inch.

THE fourth compartment of a Whitehead is the balance, or "secret" chamber, and contains an ingenious contrivance of valve and pendulum by means of which the missile is held at a certain depth below the surface of the water and is also kept in a straight line. The valve responds to the water pressure of the sea. If the torpedo goes below the required depth the denser water opens the valve in one way; if above that depth the decreased pressure causes it to open in exactly the reverse way. This action is transferred to the motor controlling the horizontal rudders.

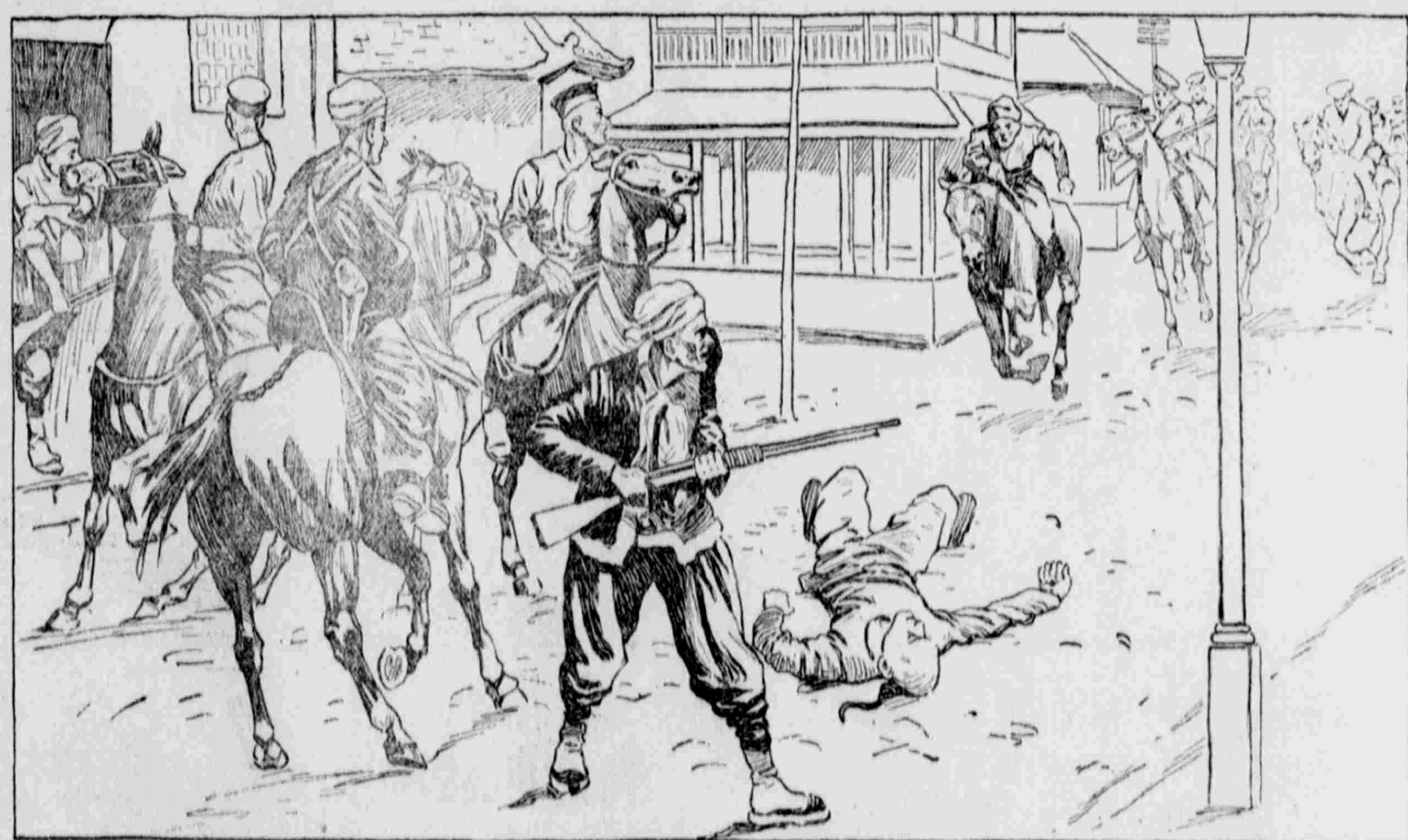
THE fifth section of the torpedo contains the engines, which are worked by the compressed air. The sixth is the buoyancy chamber, resembling the air bladder of a fish. The seventh is the bevel wheel chamber, and the eighth and last the vertical and horizontal rudders and the double screw propellers. There are two sets of tubes used in launching the missiles, those above the water line and those below. The illustrations represent a tube above water line. It is set at an angle that sends the projectile into the sea at a short distance from the torpedo boat.

THE plunge of the torpedo into the water opens a valve, which lets the compressed air into the engine room and starts the machinery. The propellers then begin to revolve and the steering apparatus to operate. This also sets a fan moving, which reels a collar off the pointed pin and releases the firing apparatus. Up to this point the missile is not dangerous. The Whitehead is named for its inventor, who gave it to the world in 1866. It travels at a speed of twenty-two knots an hour and is usually fired at a range of from 300 to 600 yards. It is the most effective modern torpedo.

Raids on Russians by the Wild Riding Chinese Brigands; Chunchuses Who Destroyed the Manchurian Railroad

ONE reason for the Russian reluctance to enter into a war with Japan was the fear of the czar's government that the Chinese brigands would seize the occasion to renew their depredations on Siberian and Manchurian towns, sweeping down from their mountain fastnesses to cut the line of the railway that is now so important to Russia, striking small detached bodies of troops and otherwise distracting and harassing the army. Events have proved these fears well founded. Not a month had elapsed after war was declared until 500 brigands were terrorizing the district of Ninguta near Vladivostok. Under their picturesque and fearless leader, Yavanten, who proclaimed himself invulnerable to bullets, these half savage outlaws began attacking outlying settlements, levying blackmail, tearing up the railroad and spreading dismay throughout the country that they have devastated and robbed so often in the past.

All the railway provinces of China are infested more or less by brigands. The northern districts in the region of Mongolia and Manchuria that are now subject to the raids of these marauders. Here the Chunchuses, the illegal descendants of the old Tartars and Huns, are present in force. The overgrown and Chinese are too much the terror of the Russian themselves and resistance to the czar to offer them as a self defense. They are as much the terror of the Russian as the Chunchuses are to the Chinese. The Chunchuses are so numerous that they are present in force. They are as much the terror of the Russian as the Chunchuses are to the Chinese. The Chunchuses are so numerous that they are present in force. They are as much the terror of the Russian as the Chunchuses are to the Chinese.



RUSSIANS DISPERSING CHINESE BANDITS.

The Slav has reason to fear these people, for it was their ancestors, in the persons of the Tartars, that overran and conquered Russia in the eleventh and twelfth centuries and held it until they finally dropped away of themselves. The Tartar gained his name in the first instance from the fact that as a robber and bandit he raided northern China and Korea, founding the dynasty that still rules the Celestial empire. Sprung from such stock as this, the Chunchuses, robbers and plunderers though they be, have no mean fighting blood in their veins. From any standpoint of ethics the Tartars were no better than the bandits; they simply operated on a larger scale. They made the whole world tribute, while their modern representatives levy only on a few provinces. The big thief is called a conqueror where the little thief is rather disrespectfully termed a brigand.

The Chunchuses have flat and smooth faces, straight black hair and olive complexions. They are desperadoes of the most daring type, not hesitating to attack the largest cities. They sweep down like a whirlwind, strike and are away. One of their points of attack is Newchwang, the port on the Liaotung peninsula. Ordinarily they choose the month of January, when the river that flows through the city is frozen. Crossing on the ice from the northern side, they extort money from the townspeople, attack the foreign guilds, shoot Russian patrols if necessary and succeed by threats or even by murder in securing considerable money and booty. Other provinces, cities and towns are made to pay tribute in the same manner, the raids being committed under the very noses of the Russian army.

The blowing up of the Manchurian railway bridge, the destruction of the track and the depredations around Vladivostok evidently only mark the beginning of operations on the part of these irregulars. The war with Japan presents an opportunity not to be overlooked. Fired with hopes of booty and of revenge, the Chunchuses, emboldened by hostility to their Slav masters among the Manchus themselves, are destined to give the great bear trouble so long as the conflict lasts.

Nor are these all the marauders that are occasioning uneasiness to the St. Petersburg government. There are the red bearded brigands farther to the north and other bands to the south that may seize the occasion to grow unruly. All China is infested by robbers. In some of the provinces men who work at trades during the day betake themselves to the mountains at night, whence they rally out on plunder bent. It is said that the original purpose of the Boxers was to prevent such raids in the Shantung district. Later the Boxers became little better than bandits themselves, and by the way, it is not at all impossible that they may be heard from before the present imbroglio is ended. China is very poorly and loosely governed, and uprisings of any nature are possible there. With the feeling against Russia existing among the vast hordes of the yellow races, it can be conceived that, even though the Chinese government itself attempts to remain neutral, the irregulars from many sources may pour over the frontier to harass the Russian camps and settlements. The action of General Ma in siding with Japan and the marching of the Chinese armies toward the Manchurian frontier would indicate that the brigands of the mountains may have powerful assistance in their fight against the great bear.

ELBERT O. WOODSON.

QUEER END TO A DUEL.

The sublime and the ridiculous were very nearly connected in a recent duel in France. Two young men fought for the sake of a fair lady, but were such bad shots that, though neither adversary was touched, a stray ball killed an unlucky cow grazing near. The dispute of honor turned into a dispute as to who should pay for the deceased cow, and both combatants fled ignominiously from the field.