

Tokio, Feb. 19 .- The response of Japan to the request of China for a statement of its position in regard to the neutrality of the latter country was made public today. Its text is as follows:

"The imperial government, desiring to avoid as far as possible a disturbance of the peaceful condition of affairs which prevails in China, will, in all parts of Chinese territory excepting the regions now occupied by Russia, respect the neutrality of China so long as Russia does the same.

"The rules of war which govern the









forces of Japan in the field do not permit the wanton destruction of property Accordingly, the imperial Chinese gov ernment may rest assured that the mausoleums and palaces at Mukden and Hsing King and public buildings in China everywhere will be secured from any injury not attributable to the action of Russia.

"Furthermore, the rights of Chinese officials and inhabitants within the gone of military operations will, in their persons and property, be fully re-spected and protected by the imperial orces, so far as military necessity mits. In the event, however, that they should extend aid and comfort to the enemy of Japan, the imperial govern-ment reserve to themselves the right to take such action as the circumstances require.

"It only remains to say, in conclusion, that the present war is not be-ing waged by Japan for the purpose of conquest, but solely in defense of her legitimate rights and interests and, consequently, that the imperial government has no intention to acquire territory at the expense of China as a result of the conflict.

"The imperial government also wish the imperial Chinese government to clearly understand that whatever action may be taken by them on Chinese territory which is made the theater of war will be the result of military necessity and not in impairment of Chinese sovereignty."

Portland Japs Raise Money.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 20.-In less than A week the Portland Japanese have Taised \$10,260 to send to the assistance of their country in her trouble in the far east. So encouraged are the local Japanese that their efforts will be continued and their countrymen in distant and remote parts of the state will be communicated with and given an opportunity of assisting Japan in her present struggle,

STRATTON'S ESTATE.

Judge Riner Grants Motion of Defendant in Independence Suit

Denver, Feb. 20.-In the United States district court Judge Riner has granted the motion of the defendants in six million dollar damage suit of Stratton Independence company, limited, of England against the estate of the late Winfield Scott Stratton, to strike from the files of the court the replication to the answer of the de-fendants and also granted judgment on the pleadings for the trustees and ex-ecutors of the estate. It was held that matter set up in the replication should have been included in the complaint.



