

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Sept. 22.

The Japanese appear to be pushing the Russian army at Mukden (p. 374) farther north, and another great battle is not improbable. But the reports of movements on both sides are indefinite, conflicting, and altogether as untrustworthy as reports of other preliminary movements have been from the beginning of the war. Not until the next battle has been fought to the end can trustworthy news be expected.

Reports regarding Port Arthur (p. 356) are to the effect that another attack from land and sea has been in progress since the 19th.

A concession regarding contraband shipments (p. 296) was made by Russia to the British ambassador at St. Petersburg on the 16th. It was in the form of an oral interpretation of the Russian prize regulations. Count Lamsdorf, the Russian minister for foreign affairs, explained to the British ambassador that food stuffs, coal, and other articles of peaceful commerce, which are susceptible also of warlike uses, are, when shipped in ordinary course of trade, to be regarded as contraband only if consigned to blockaded ports or destined for the enemy's military or naval forces. This is in accordance with the British and American contention. The reservation is made, however, that irregular ship's papers or other suspicious circumstances may be held to vitiate the assumption of innocent character, although the burden of proof to warrant legal seizure in such cases will rest upon the captor.

The Russian war vessel *Lena*, which sought refuge in the port of San Francisco (p. 375), was put in course of dismantlement at the Mare Island navy yard, near San Francisco, on the 17th. The work was finished on the 19th. On the latter date her officers and crew were paroled under an agreement between Rear Admiral Goodrich, U. S. N., and her captain, that they are not to depart from San Francisco until the end of the war or a prior agreement between Russia

and Japan for their release. Their living expenses in San Francisco are to be paid by the Russian government.

Members of the Interparliamentary Union, which advocates international arbitration in place of war, and met at St. Louis last week (p. 375), are making an American pilgrimage under the escort of a Congressional committee. This Union is composed exclusively of members and ex-members of parliamentary bodies. The expenses of its St. Louis convention and present pilgrimage were provided for by a \$50,000 appropriation by Congress. Numbering about 250 persons, it is traveling in two special railroad trains. Receptions have been given these visitors by several cities, that at Detroit being notable.

Another peace convention is to be held in the United States in a few days. This is the International Congress (vol. vi, p. 810), composed of delegates from the world's peace societies. The first of these conventions met in London in 1843, as the Universal Peace Congress, and under the auspices of the American Peace Society and the English Peace Society. The second met at Brussels in 1848. At the third Congress, held in Paris in 1849, Victor Hugo presided. There was then a lapse until 1889, when the movement was revived under its present title, the International Peace Congress. The first of these gatherings, also at Paris, was presided over by Frederic Passy. Eleven others have been held, namely, at London, Rome, Berne, Chicago, Antwerp, Buda-Pesth, Hamburg, Paris, Glasgow, Monaco and Rouen; and the thirteenth is to meet at Tremont Temple, Boston, on the 3d of next month. On the 2d, Sunday, church services in Boston are to be devoted to the cause of international peace, and other public meetings are to be held in the same interest. The Congress is to be welcomed on the 3d by the Mayor of Boston, the Governor of Massachusetts and the Federal Secretary of State. The deliberative meetings of the Congress are to be in Tremont Temple every forenoon of the week; public meetings will be held in the evenings at Tremont Temple,

Park Street Church, the old South Meeting House, and Faneuil Hall. Among the subjects to be discussed are the following: "Work and Influence of The Hague Tribunal," "Reduction of National Armaments," "Education," "Mutual Relations of Races," "Special Interests of Workingmen," "Special Interests of Business Men," and "Special Interests of Women." The Congress is to close with a \$2 festival and dinner at Horticultural Hall on the 7th, at which there will be speaking. All peace and arbitration societies, and all religious, educational, philanthropic, industrial, or commercial organizations in sympathy with the general aims of the Congress are entitled to send delegates. Any individual friend of the peace cause may join the Congress upon payment of \$1. The office of the organization committee is at 20 Beacon street, Boston.

Work in behalf of the emergent petition for a referendum on the proposed traction ordinance of Chicago (p. 376) is reported to be progressing rapidly. The Municipal Ownership League endorsed it on the 16th as the most important present work for municipal ownership advocates, and pledged its cooperation. The Chicago Federation of Labor did the same thing on the 18th. The Turner societies, also, are active in promoting the petition. On the 19th it was stated by the directors of the work that 3,000 individuals had then volunteered to solicit signatures. Signature-solicitors report that citizens readily sign the petitions when presented; and the managers expect to have 100,000 when the City Council meets on the 3d.

Meanwhile, rumors are plentiful in Chicago that the two great traction systems of the city are about to merge. These rumors are to the effect that Eastern combinations interested in the Union Traction Company (now in the hands of Federal receivers) have offered \$200 a share for a controlling interest in the Chicago City Railway Company (which is locally controlled). That some such arrangements are under way is confirmed by John J. Mitchell, who was reported on the 20th by the Chicago