

the centre of Alexandrovsk, which the invaders occupied last week. The place seemed to Mr Hawes to exist for the prison. The few merchants' stores and the ironfoundry are for the prisoners; the wooden houses are the residences of the officials. Besides the prison, the church, in the main street, and the market-place, there is not much to call for attention. According to Mr de Windt, who visited the southern portion of Saghalien, there were 5000 criminal convicts located at Korsakovsk, on the south coast, the town the Japanese invaders first captured, only about 1200 of whom are actually under lock and key. The rest are mainly employed as agriculturists. The town consists of one long straggling thoroughfare, commencing at the landing-stage and abruptly terminating by the huge prison. Alexandrovsk is in the centre of the coal district, and is a picturesque, straggling town of about 7000 inhabitants, almost entirely of officials and convicts. It was the most important penal settlement on the island, and the residence of the Governor of Saghalien, a subordinate of the Governor-General of Eastern Siberia. Alexandrovsk was garrisoned by about 1500 men, and contains large foundries and workshops for convict labour, but most of the prisoners were employed in the adjacent coal mines of Dui, and, no doubt, the Japanese will keep them at that work for a time at least, as the getting out of coal for the coming northern winter will be of first importance. Korsakovsk is the next largest settlement. Mr H. de Windt, the famous traveller, who visited Saghalien some years ago, remarks that, although it may seem a paradox, the remaining prisons in the interior of the island, Derbynskaya, Rykovnkaya, and Onor, are not prisons at all, but huge wooden barracks innocent of bolts and bars. Here, also, the work done is solely agricultural.

The male population of the island is some three times that of the female. It is very thinly peopled, the proportion of human beings being

only two to every five square kilometres.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war, there was a revolt among the prisoners, who anticipated with joy the prospect of an early release at the hands of a Japanese force.

The success of Japanese colonising methods in Formosa justifies the hope that Saghalien will prosper when it comes back to the Mikado's rule.

The Japanese Campaign.

The following letter forwarded to us by the recipient for publication, is from a Japanese engineer on board the Akitsushima, one of Admiral Togo's cruisers that took part in the recent great naval battle of Tsushima Straits. The letter is dated Sasebo, June 10th, 1905, and after tendering thanks for a letter received, continues: "Now, I must be haughty to write to you of the brilliant victory of Imperial Japanese Navy against Russia's Baltic squadron. The great battle began at p.m. 2 o'clock on the 27th (May) and finished on 29th, and that was the most exciting scene to us, by that we observed the most gallant aspect together with the most cruel fact; that is enemy's sinking ships by our fierce cannonading, many boats to and flow on the angry waves hoisting white flags and uttering mortal cry for our rescue. By this victorious battle, Russia's 28 ships were almost lost but their three only; and commander-in-chief, Admiral Rojestvensky, Nebokatoff and 3000 Russian with four of their battleships were captured by our squadron. Notwithstanding their extermination, our damage was very a few. The great battle proved the superiority of man over machinery, and our Admiral Togo's victory in Tsushima Strait surpasses Nelson's at Trafalgar. Now Russia's hope for supremacy in the Far East is absolutely destroyed, at least for many years to come. 'God helps always justice.' Isn't it? (Yours very sincerely, —)."

This quaintly-worded letter reveals