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The Russian Govt. is about to introduce what it calls "great improvements" in the administration of the Russian possessions in the Pacific Ocean, among which the Saghaline Island occupies a most important place, being the outpost of the Russian possessions at the farthest point of the East. In fact, Russia already holds the whole extent of that island, the southern part of which contains, however, a few Japanese colonies, which, the Russian Govt. asserts, have given to the Japanese Govt. a plea to try and extend its domination beyond the limit fixed by the Simoda Treaty. The principal resources of that island are the immense coal fields, which the Russian Govt. intends to be worked by penitentiary colonies watched over by troops in sufficient numbers to oppose, meantime, the encroachments of the Japanese. Meanwhile, new coal-fields are daily being discovered, and the Russian Govt. seems

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seems to be in fear that their simultaneous working by Russians and Japanese should bring about collisions, the consequences of which cannot be foreseen, because the Japanese are evidently supported in their encroachments "by influences" one is surprised to see acting against Russia in those remote countries where any European power, Russia accepted, cannot have any interest; therefore the "influences" above alluded to are moved only by a jealous policy that plays blindly with the real wants of nations. Therefore the Russian Gov^t has resolved to avoid any complication, to occupy the whole of the island, and to take hold of it in such a way as to be able to vindicate Russia's right even by force. In that view regular relations are to be established with the continent of those regions and the military forces established in the Saghalien island are to be adequately reinforced.