

THE RUSSIANS SEIZE A BRITISH SHIP
AND PLACE THEIR SOLDIERS ON BOARDRussian Transport Yenisei Blown Up at Port Arthur—Czar's Battleships Sink Jap Merchantmen—Another
Outbreak of Boxers Imminent—Russian Revolutionists Issue Manifesto Denouncing War.Russian Officials Now Blame the Czar for the Recent Defeats—Reported Destruction of the Japanese Port of
Hakodate Is Discredited at St. Petersburg.

London, Feb. 13. — The owners of the British steam collier Foxton Hall have been advised that the vessel has been detained by the Russian authorities at Port Arthur. Russian soldiers have been placed on board the vessel and her British captain and crew have been sent to Chefoo, whence it is reported that several other neutral vessels are detained at Port Arthur.

FOUR TO ONE.
Yokohama, Feb. 13. — It is reported here that the Russian warships Gromob, Resnik, Rurik and Bogatyr sunk the Japanese merchant steamer Akoura Maru, off Hokkaido on Feb. 11.

JAP DEFEAT DISCREDITED.
Story of Destruction of Hakodate Disbelieved at St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13. — The Associated Press is authorized to deny the report that Japanese troops had landed at Port Arthur with the loss of two regiments.

Nothing is known here officially regarding the movements of the Vladivostok squadron, but the report that it has sunk Japanese transports off Wonsan and Hakodate are generally discredited, it being pointed out that it is impossible for the squadron to have been in the two places almost simultaneously.

A naval expert says that if the Hako-

cellent fighters, who will be treated with the respect they deserve.

BLAME LAD ON CZAR.
Russian Official Says He Is Responsible for the Defeats.

New York, Feb. 13. — The blame for the Russian defeat in the Orient is openly attributed by the Russians to the Czar himself, according to a dispatch from Berlin to the American.

It continues that a high Russian official said: "The Czar's recent manifestoes were practically an act of self-accusation. He cried peace when everybody else knew that peace was impossible. The loss of his warships at Port Arthur and Chemulpo awakened him to the realization of his delusion that war was avoidable."

"The Czar stubbornly tied the hands of our naval and military leaders, who knew that war was inevitable. There will be an official scapegoat, but the weight of the blame that unnecessarily disgraced the Russian arms must rest on the Czar himself."

CANNOT BE REPAIRED.

New York, Feb. 13. — In a cable from London, the correspondent of the Tribune says: "Russian attempts to minimize the damages to the fleet are ridiculed by experts, who assert that the only drydock at Port Arthur is too small to hold the injured battleships, which cannot be repaired for service during the war."

The American proclamation of neutrality attracts comment as more advanced in the direction of the protection of private property than the practice of European governments war-

present war will prove that the automatic regime situation is grave."

JAPS TO HELP JAPAN.
Atlanta, Feb. 13. — Acting on the suggestion of Colonel Harry Silverman, of the Governor's staff, the Japs of this city started a movement to have their brethren throughout America subscribe \$100,000 for a fund which is to be devoted to the purchase of a battleship for Japan.

AGREES WITH HAY.
Britain Sends an Answer Regarding China's Integrity.

London, Feb. 13. — The reports regarding British delay in answering Secretary Hay's note on the subject of China have created surprise here. It is pointed out that the note was only presented a few days ago, and that the British Government already has communicated what is regarded as tantamount to an answer.

CHINESE IS NEUTRAL.

Tokio, Feb. 13. — The Chinese Government yesterday proclaimed the neutrality of China during the war between Russia and Japan.

WAR NOTES

The Daily Telegraph this morning says the British admiralty has sent letters of warning to all retired naval officers who are eligible for service.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph claims unimpeachable authority to declare that in the event of Russia being defeated in the Far East, Germany will make a diversion in her favor likely to have far-reaching results.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

During the last twenty-four hours there has been a dearth of definite information from the Far East. Rumors are flying of a Russian triumph at Hakodate, a Japanese port, which, it is claimed, has been destroyed by the Vladivostok fleet. As this squadron was declared to be icebound the report is probably untrue. Should this news be correct it is bad news for the Japs, as the squadron could do immense damage to the Mikado's coast and shipping, and make a conjunction with the Russian fleet en route from Europe. Four Russian battleships are said to have captured or sunk a Japanese merchantman and the latest details of the Port Arthur fight say three of the Mikado's torpedo boats were destroyed with great loss of life. It is claimed a Jap battleship was sunk. While lying submarine mines in Port Arthur for the benefit of the Japs the Russian transport Yenisei got tangled up with the apparatus and was blown to pieces. A St. Petersburg dispatch says a number of officers perished. At Port Arthur the Russians fired on a British ship, but later apologized for the mistake. Nothing has been heard of the rival armies which are supposed to be somewhere in Northern Korea, possibly close to the Yalu River. Revolutionists are active in Russia, and missionaries in China fear an early Boxer outbreak. Russian officials blame the Czar's peace talk for the recent defeats but will probably look elsewhere for a scapegoat. Britain is considering Mr. Hay's proposal as to integrity of China.

date story is true, Admiral Stackelberg (in command of the Vladivostok squadron) will be able to come south by the eastern coast of Japan and cause enormous havoc along the shore and to shipping and ultimately effect a junction with Admiral Visnina's squadron on its way to the far east from Europe. Viceroy Alexieff's silence about the Vladivostok squadron is explained as follows:

"For strategic reasons the viceroy, as commander in chief, is empowered to dispose of the ships and men without consulting headquarters. The enumeration of the Russian ships engaged at Port Arthur was purposely omitted in the official reports, as it would have given a valuable clue to the enemy."

A private telegram has been received from a resident of Port Arthur, in which the sender claims he saw one Japanese ship sunk. The fact that no mention was made of this in the viceroy's dispatches does not disprove the story, because the viceroy is careful not to announce anything outside of personally established facts.

It is pointed out on high authority that the Japanese are not likely to admit such a loss, and it is recalled that during the Chinese war they were most secretive about the casualties. The telegraph lines between Port Arthur and the Yalu River is believed to be broken, which explains the absence of direct news regarding the naval engagement of Chemulpo. However, little doubt is entertained here as to the fate of the Yariag and the Korietz.

The blowing-up of the Russian torpedo transport Yenisei, as the result of accidentally striking a mine at Port Arthur was telegraphed here yesterday, but the news was not given out until the names of the officers killed were known, so as to avoid needless anxiety to the relatives of the surviving officers.

The first feeling of depression is disappearing, and entire confidence is expressed in the ultimate success of the Russian arms.

A distinguished Russian said: "The slight reverses which we sustained at the outset have had a good effect. The Russians no longer despise the enemy. That was a mistake which we made. The Japanese certainly are

ants. The current idea here is that British commerce is safe while the navy commands the sea, and that ships can afford to pay high insurance premiums in war time.

RUSSIAN FLEET SIGHTED.

Twelve Warships Seen in the Vicinity of Kattagat.

New York, Feb. 13. — The captain of an English steamer, according to a cable to the World from Surinam, says he sighted twelve Russian warships steaming in the direction of the Kattagat, presumably on their way to the far east.

By overcoming extraordinary difficulties if they did not touch at a British coaling station, they would have to make for Jibouti, French Somaliland and thence to Saigon, where the French might again grant them whatever fuel they needed.

On the other hand they might attempt to take coilers with them, but that would mean that their rate of progress would be so slow that they would be hampered in every way. In regard to the Black Sea fleet, the same objection applies, even if permission is granted to pass the Dardanelles.

From private inquiries which have been made in Berlin, says the World, it is said that the movements of the Russian Baltic fleet are in reality a bluff intended to satisfy the demands of the public.

REVOLUTIONISTS ACTIVE.

Russians Issue Manifesto Denouncing War With Japan.

New York, Feb. 13. — A special cable to the American from Vienna says: "Underground advisers from St. Petersburg state that the Russian revolutionary party has issued a manifesto denouncing the war, and declaring that the task of the Russian people lies neither in Korea nor in Manchuria, but exclusively in Russia, where domestic reforms are pressing."

The document declares: "Japan is a free nation. Russia, on the contrary, is an Asiatic despot. The

A Tien Tsin dispatch, dated Feb. 13, says: "It is reported from Cui Wang Tiao, about 150 miles northeast of Tien Tsin, that heavy firing has been heard at sea, and it is inferred that another engagement has taken place."

Russians fire on British steamer and afterwards apologize. The Italian Government has received a message from the commander of the Italian cruiser Elba, which is at Chemulpo, Korea, saying that several Russian sailors from the warships sunk there by the Japanese in the recent engagement took refuge aboard the Elba, where they were kindly received. The commander says, further, that he cannot deliver these men to the Japanese, because they would be made prisoners, and that he cannot return them to Russia, as this action might be interpreted as a breach of neutrality.

Japan is to use a new and powerful explosive.

CONTRABAND OF WAR

C. P. R. Trans Pacific Boats Refuse Carriage of Foodstuffs.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 13. — W. R. Haldane, division superintendent of the Canadian Pacific, has received the following telegram from Fourth Vice-President G. M. Bosworth at Montreal: "No flour nor foodstuffs of any description should be contracted for at present for Japan via the Canadian Pacific steamers. In fact nothing that you think would be contraband of war."

This step is taken under instructions from the president of the road, who desired to be careful not to violate the laws of neutrality, in view of the proclamation issued by King Edward.

Hit a Mine.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13. — According to the Novoye Vremya the Yenisei was laying mines off the entrance of Ta Lien Wan Bay, with the object of closing it against an attack from the sea. Observing that none of the mines had risen to the surface, the Yenisei approached for the purpose of blowing it up, when the vessel came in contact with another mine, which exploded and caused the disaster.

MANY STORIES OF
THE BIG FIGHT

Japs Used Russian Signal Lights at Port Arthur.

THREE TORPEDO BOATS SUNK

Reports from Official Sources and the Newspaper Correspondents Widely Different.

Washington, Feb. 13. — The naval attaché of the Japanese legation, Commander Takeshita, has received a cablegram from the navy department at Tokio stating that the admiral of the combined squadron reports that at midnight on the 8th inst., the Japanese torpedo destroyer flotilla attacked the enemy at Port Arthur, when the main portion of the Russian squadron was lying outside of the port. He reports that at least two battleships and one cruiser were torpedoed by the Japanese boats. The enemy retired from the port. The Japanese combined squadron arrived outside of Port Arthur on the morning of the 9th, and engaged the enemy's fleet, which was still outside, and it is believed inflicted considerable damage. The Japanese fleet suffered very slight damage, the total casualties being four killed and fifty-four wounded. Not one of the ships was damaged to an extent that would injure its fighting power. The officers and crews of the Japanese fleet are reported to have engaged in the action with the same calmness which would have characterized their conduct during ordinary naval maneuvers.

ANOTHER VERSION.
New York, Feb. 13. — The Herald has the following special from Chefoo, dated Thursday: "Out of four Japanese battleships which were sunk in the first attack on Monday night at Port Arthur, three were sunk with great loss of life. The fourth was severely damaged and escaped. The Japanese torpedo boats effected an entrance into the outer harbor by using the Russian signal lights, consequently the Russians did not fire on them, and were caught unawares."

The following account of the first surprise is given by the Russian naval officers. "The cruiser Pallada was on the outside edge of the Russian fleet, and on duty that night. The chief artillery officer noticed four torpedo boats approaching with full lights, and in all respects like Russian torpedo boats. The officer informed his captain that the approaching boats were Japanese. The captain denied this and said they were built in Japan, but he was not sure. He ordered the Japanese launched a torpedo, but the boats were able to evade it instantly, and the other Russian ships cleared for action."

It is pointed out now that the Japanese attempted a landing near Bedzero Poi Ise Wo, eighty miles north of Port Arthur, but were repulsed with heavy loss. They again tried to effect a landing at Ta Lien Wan, under the shelter of the fleet, but owing to strong fort firing they were unable to succeed. It is reported that one Japanese merchant ship in Port Arthur have repeatedly applied for permission to leave port, but this has been refused. The Casarevitch was towed into harbor at Port Arthur at 3 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. It is said that only her outer bottom was penetrated by the torpedo, that the Russians are busy repairing her, and that she can be repaired in two or three days. The Pallada is still outside, and beached. She must be seriously injured, but she is now also being repaired. She is the only one of the torpedoed vessels now outside.

A shell struck a hospital ship outside the basin during the bombardment. The captain's cabin and the chart-room were blown off, but there was no loss of life, as the ship was only recently purchased and was un-manned. Foreigners in Port Arthur were notified at 7 o'clock on Monday night that they had 24 hours in which to clear out, but British steamers have been forced to leave. One German steamer arrived at Chefoo today, the first to get here from Port Arthur since the bombardment. On Wednesday the Japanese tried to land at Pigeon Bay, near Port Arthur. Thirty-six Japanese vessels were sent there. It is not known if the attempt succeeded. Thousands of persons are leaving Port Arthur daily by train, so that there is not even a standing room in cars. The Russian trouble has gone down 24 per cent at Chefoo, among the Chinese merchants.

WANTS TO OUST FRANCE FROM RUSSIA'S FRIENDSHIP.

May Demand the Evacuation of Wei Hai Wei—The Thibet Expedition Bothers the Powers.

It quotes a correspondent in St. Petersburg as saying: "Already proposals are affirmed to have been made by the chief of that state which if accepted would considerably complicate matters. The German Government is especially bitter with England and will support Russia diplomatically in any action tending to bring the evacuation of Wei Hai Wei before the Hague tribunal."

"Germany's fixed resolution is to avail herself of the present crisis to win back Russia's friendship, and oust France from favor, but the proposals which have emanated from Berlin are definite and concrete, and if accepted are likely to interest Europe keenly in the far eastern war."

England's military expedition now pressing into Thibet has also become the target of the eyes of the other great powers involved in the far east. This is because England, while apparently all-sufficing Secretary Hay's Chinese neutrality proposition, had not up to today expressed formal acceptance of the idea, but has been inquiring what would probably be the extent of international concurrent action for the preservation of neutrality. This would require some important information, before committing itself.

LIBERAL WINS A BYE-ELECTION

St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire Carried by Liberal Candidate—Majority 132.

London, Feb. 13. — The bye-election yesterday for member of Parliament for the St. Albans division of Hertfordshire resulted in the Liberals winning the seat. The vote was: J. Bamford Slack, Liberal, 4,757; Vicary Gibbs, Conservative, 4,625. Liberal majority, 132.

The election was in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Gibbs, who is a strong Chamberlainite and was due to the fact that the firm with which he is connected acted as agents from the admiralty in the purchase of the Chilean warships, which, according to custom, called for his resignation.

THE LISGAR ELECTION.
Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 13. — For the fourth time the motion to dismiss the appeal in the Lisgar election case was adjourned in supreme court chambers this morning.

TOMORROW—SNOW OR SLEET.
London, Saturday, Feb. 13. Sun rises, 7:21 a.m. Moon sets, 5:24 a.m. Sun sets, 5:43 p.m. Moon rises, 3:26 p.m. Toronto, Feb. 13. Sun rises, 7:21 a.m. Moon sets, 5:24 a.m. Sun sets, 5:43 p.m. Moon rises, 3:26 p.m.

The weather today, although fairly cold, has been somewhat milder than during the early part of the week. Light snowfalls are reported from Manitoba and the Territories, and snow flurries have occurred in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 32-45; Calgary, 12 below-6 below; Qu'Appelle, 8 below-12; Winnipeg, 29 below-19; Port Arthur, zero-19; Fairbury, 18 below-12; Toronto, 2 below-14; Ottawa, 2 below-12; Montreal, 2-10; Quebec, 2-12; Halifax, 2-22.

FORECASTS.
Saturday, Feb. 13-8 a.m. Today—Becoming milder; strong south-west winds, with light snow tonight. Sunday—Strong southeasterly winds, with snow or sleet; becoming colder again on Monday.

TEMPERATURES.
Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather. Calgary 18 Clear. Winnipeg 2 Cloudy. Port Arthur 6 Cloudy. Toronto 4 Cloudy. Ottawa 4 Cloudy. Montreal 6 Cloudy. Quebec 4 Fair. Fairbury 4 Cloudy. Port Arthur 2 Clear. Local temperatures: Friday—Highest, 12°; lowest, zero.

A Boxer Outbreak Feared; Missionaries Are in Peril

New York, Feb. 13. — A dispatch to Washington says the information received by the German Government that an outbreak in China might be expected as soon as the present war began is partly confirmed by official advices received here, which are receiving careful consideration, because of its vital effect on the present movement to assure the neutrality of China. The state department learns that there is a grave condition of unrest in Canton and the region adjacent thereto. Arms have been constantly imported. The Chinese are reported to be often

offered by foreign officers, especially Japanese. There has been an American warship, generally a monitor, there for many months. Conditions in the northern provinces which were devastated by the Boxer outbreak, are not so bad, because of the severe lesson which the Chinese troops were given by the allies in 1900. Germany has taken active steps to protect her interest in the interior by building gunboats similar to those used by the British. Mr. Conger, at Peking, constantly receives advices from missionaries in remote provinces, and they constantly express apprehension of an outbreak.

FATALITY AT ST. THOMAS

Assistant Yardmaster James W. Moodie killed.

Stepped Off M. C. R. Engine and Was Run Over by Cars.

A fatal accident happened in the St. Thomas yards of the M. C. R. at an early hour this morning. The victim being James W. Moodie, the assistant yardmaster at that place.

About 2 o'clock Moodie was on his way to have his lunch, and as he stepped off an engine, he walked in front of some cars, which were being shunted on an adjoining track. He was knocked down and went under the wheels. His right leg was taken off at the thigh, and the left was severed below the knee. He also received a number of injuries to the head, a large hole wound being caused on each side. Moodie was unconscious when help reached him, and he never recovered from this condition up to the time of his death, which followed the accident in half an hour. The unfortunate man was 34 years of age, and leaves a wife and three children. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. and had been employed on the M. C. R. since he came to Canada from Scotland thirteen years ago.

WANT IT TORN DOWN

Business Men Petition to Have the Market Building Removed.

A petition is being circulated among the business men of the city, praying that the council tear down the market house and thereby make more room on the market for the farmers of the district. The petition states that the rental received from the buildings is at present a mere nothing, and that its room is of more value than its presence on the market. The statement is also made that it is unfair to competitors of the butchers in the market house stalls for the city to allow the butchers free water and such low rent. It is said the petition is being freely signed by Dundas and Richmond street business men, as well as by those in the vicinity of the market.

INJURED BY STREET CAR

Death of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Small's Little Daughter in Chicago.

Word was received in the city this morning of the death at Chicago of Margaret Isabel, the engaging little 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Small. Particulars of the child's death have not been obtained, beyond the fact that it was due to injuries received by being struck by a street car. The remains will be brought to London in the spring for interment.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Small will hear of the child's death with regret, and will extend their sincere sympathy. Mr. Small is well-known in this city, where he lived for many years prior to his removal to Chicago. He was one of the organizers of the London Old Boys' Association of that city, and will be remembered by Londoners from all parts as one of the prime movers in every realm.

Hold-Up Men Enter a Club; Take \$8,000 From Members

San Francisco, Feb. 13. — Five men entered the Colonial Club, frequented by leading sporting men in this city, last night. While one remained on guard the others broke into the club-room and rounded up the inmates, who were lined up against the wall. They were then relieved of money and valuables to the extent of \$8,000. The keys of the bank were then taken from Joseph Harland, and from it the robbers got \$5,500 in gold coin. The victims were then bound hand and foot and laid face downwards upon the floor, two of the robbers being left in charge of them until the rest of the band had sufficient time to get away in safety. They then extinguished the lights and made good their escape. No traces of the thieves has been so far obtainable.

A SMASH ON GRAND TRUNK

Express Ran Into Freight Not Far From Ingersoll.

Three Cars Wrecked, Engine Damaged, No One Hurt.

No. 6 express on the Grand Trunk, due to leave here for Niagara Falls at 10:25 a.m., met with an accident this morning at Paton's siding, midway between Dorchester Station and Ingersoll.

Running ahead of the express was the way freight, which runs daily between London and Hamilton, and it was about to take the siding to make way for No. 6, when the latter crashed into the rear end of it, wrecking three cars and the engine, and blocking the line for several hours.

The engineer on the express was Thos. Buckpit, of Sarnia, Tamworth, one of the most experienced men on the road, with his fireman, he escaped injury, as did all of the passengers. The engine alone was damaged, none of the cars of the passenger train being injured in the least.

At the time of the accident the freight was moving slowly, and the express was not traveling at a high rate of speed. Immediately to the west of the siding is a curve, which prevented Buckpit seeing the freight until it was too late to bring the express to a standstill. The London auxiliary was called out, and late in the afternoon succeeded in getting the track open.

ON BRINK OF FALL

Guide Takes Visitor to a Point Never Before Reached.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Feb. 13. — At noon Thursday Guide John R. Barlow escorted Supt. Ferry, of the state reservation to a point on the very brink of the American Falls never before reached by a human being. When at the foot of Robinson Island, which is one of the inaccessible points between the American Falls and the Goat Island bridge, Guide Barlow pointed out the possibility of walking to the brink of the awful precipice sure of every step. The men proceeded, Barlow leading. Leaving Robinson Island they walked on toward the edge of the precipice, which they reached midway between Luna Island and Prospect Point.

LIGHT WORK AT COURT.

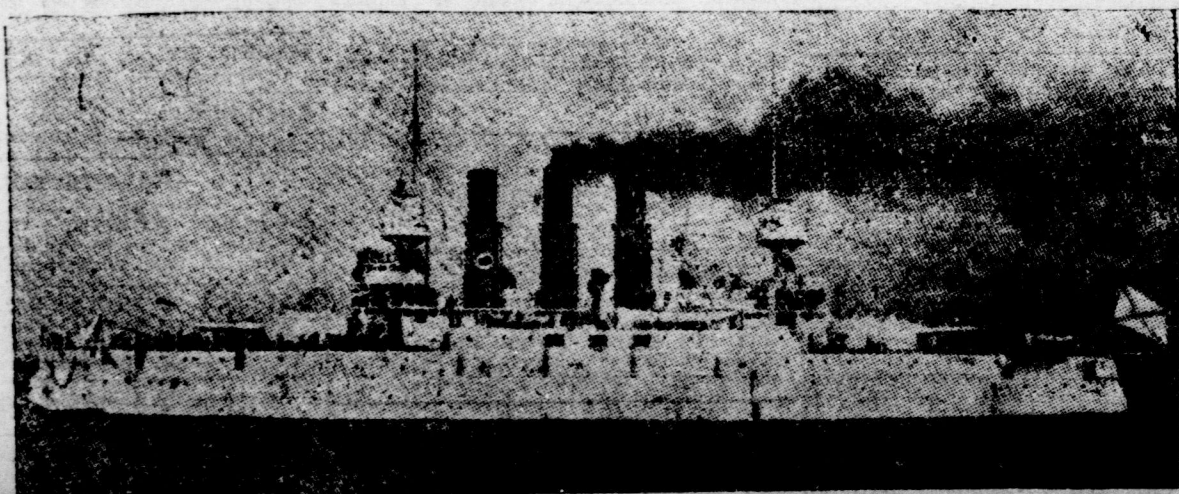
At police court this morning one drunk constituted the calendar. He was fined \$2. The court this week hasn't had enough to pay for having the calendar. There have been very few cases before the magistrate.

A McMASTER STUDENT.

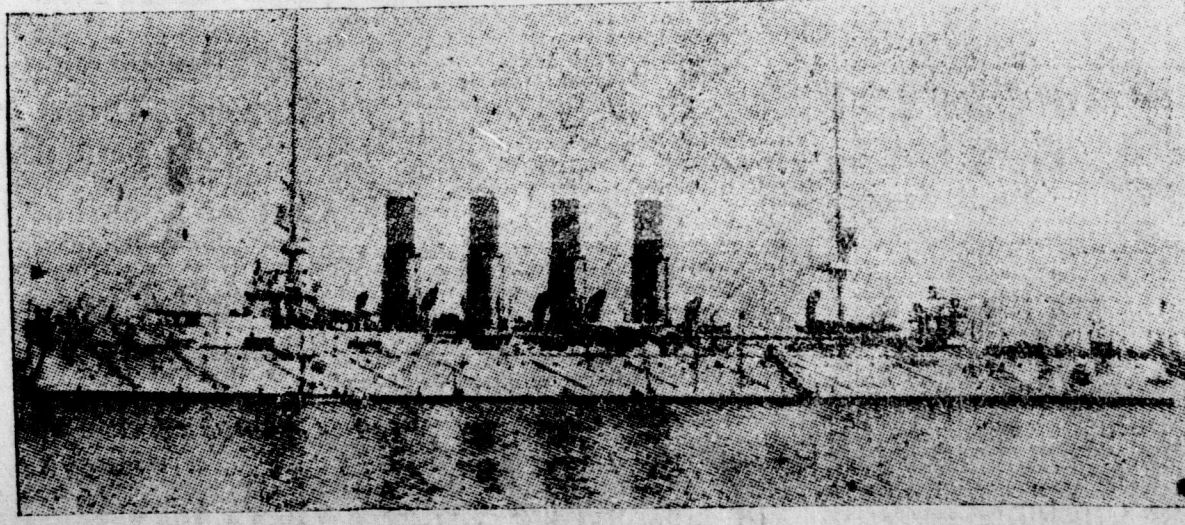
A McMaster University student, Mr. Stewart Woodburn, will conduct the weekly men's meeting at the Y. M. C. A. tomorrow afternoon. The meeting begins at 4:15 o'clock and all men are welcome.

ROADS IMPROVING.

The condition of the country roads has shown a decided improvement during the past week or ten days. Travel in all directions is better, enabling farmers to reach the markets. The attendance on the square this morning was the largest in weeks, the representation from all sections being good.



RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP RETVIZAN, SUNK IN PORT ARTHUR HARBOR.



AMERICAN-BUILT RUSSIAN CRUISER VARIAG, SUNK AT CHEMULPO.