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HAVE RUSSIAN SHIPS ELUDED THE JAPANESE?

Scouting Near Port Arthur Fails to Reveal Their Presence, and it is Believed They Are Now Attempting to Reach Vladivostock---Details of Last Naval Engagement.

Tokio, March 14.—Viceroy Alexieff's report stating that a Japanese torpedo destroyer was sunk and the cruiser Tagasgao heavily damaged by the shell fire of the Russians during the fourth attack on Port Arthur is officially pronounced untrue. The damaged Japanese torpedo boat destroyers can be repaired in one week, and it will not be necessary to dock them.

Marakoff's Plans.

London, March 15.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail at Newchwang says that after the removal of the battleship Retvizan four Russian steamers, the Harbin, the Hailar, the Nineuta and the Sungari were anchored at the mouth of the entrance to Port Arthur in proper position and sunk, leaving only a small channel available, Vice-Admiral Marakoff having obviously ordered the whole fleet to remain outside with steam up, economy in coal being unnecessary.

The above dispatch, which is prominently displayed by the Mail, and which the correspondent says is "Russian information," is, if true, news of the first importance confirming the idea that Vice-Admiral Makaroff will adopt the offensive and make a desperate attempt to bring together Russia's scattered naval forces or endeavor to inflict damage upon the Japanese navy. The story must, however, be viewed cautiously, the only approach to confirmation from any other quarter being to dispatch from a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Yin Kow, which merely says "Vice-Admiral Makaroff has issued orders to the effect that the saving of coal is unnecessary, but that the big gun ammunition in the forts must not be wasted. Evidently ammunition is running short."

The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent sends an unconfirmed rumor to the effect that Japanese marines have landed and occupied Dalny.

It may be remarked that the British newspapers all regard Vice-Admiral Togo's report that he has laid mines at Port Arthur as a mere bluff, and they say that such a feat would be impossible under fire.

The Daily Mail thinks that if Vice-Admiral Makaroff closed the channel it was in order to prevent the ingress of Japanese torpedo boat destroyers, as he died at Wei-Hai-Wei during the Chinese-Japanese war.

It is a subject of unceasing remark and conjecture that nothing has been heard of the Vladivostock squadron, and it is beginning to be believed that it is concealed in the harbor of Vladivostock.

The Standard's Tokio correspondent says that, according to a dispatch from Wonsan, the Russians are believed to be withdrawing from the northeastern part of Korea and concentrating at Vladivostock.

The Tokio correspondent of the Morning Post throws an interesting light upon Japanese financial intentions, and says it is estimated that Japan will be able to maintain a war for eighteen months without borrowing. The policy is to retain the gold in Japan, and it is believed it will not be necessary to spend abroad more than an eighth of the cost of the war, this expenditure being chiefly on coal, cordite and steel. The fact that Port Arthur is completely blockaded permits a great saving because Japan will be able to charter vessels at peace rates.

News has been received of the first accident to a war correspondent in the Far East. Mr. McKenzie, representing the Daily Mail in Korea, had both his legs broken in a fall from a pony.

May Fall Back.

Yin Kow, March 14.—The local Russian authorities are apparently incensed and manifestly much annoyed at the solicitous inquiries of the commanders of foreign gunboats regarding the projected blockading of the Liao river before the arrival of the Japanese, which latter event is regarded as a foregone conclusion. Although the blocking of the Liao and also the adequate defence of the settlement and native towns are regarded as unattainable. It is certain that a disposition of guns has been made and a defence plan has already been arranged. The arrival of Gen. Konderatovitch a few days ago, however, threatened to cause the abandonment of the original intention.

The information obtainable at Port Arthur and Newchwang admits that the government's intention is to fall back indefinitely until it can complete the mobilization of 300,000 troops for the purpose of assaulting and opposing the Japanese, and probably 300,000 more to oppose the Chinese. The same opinion asserts that Vice-Admiral Makaroff will fight hard. He is determined to weaken the enemy at any cost, and make the operation of the Baltic sea fleet in the Far East feasible, though it might be necessary to fight without the Pallada, Czarevitch and Retvizan, which it is admitted cannot be fully repaired within six months. On account of the uncertainty of successfully constructing a mud dock in which to repair the Czarevitch and Retvizan, naval experts allow a year for the work.

Says Ships Were Damaged.

Port Arthur, March 14.—Two Russian passengers of the steamer Argun, captured by the Japanese off the coast of Korea, February 17th, and taken to Sasebo, have returned here. The passengers say that while at Sasebo, February 17th, while on board the Toka Maru, to which they had been transferred, they saw the Japanese cruiser Asuma being towed into that port. The Asuma was without smokestacks, masts or bridge, and her decks had been ploughed up by projectiles.

The other Japanese prizes, the Mukden, Russia and Ekaterintoslaff, besides the captured Russian whalers Michael, Nicolai and Alexander, were also at Sasebo when the passengers left there. The German steamer Stolberg, which brought from Vladivostock the survivors of the Japanese steamer Nakonoura, sunk by the Russians, was still at Nagasaki. The two Russians add that they saw pictures at Sasebo representing the destruction of the entire Russian fleet.

China's Neutrality.

Paris, March 15.—The Tientsin correspondent of the Journal says that Colonel Munthe, aide de camp, and Dr. Laville, councillor for foreign affairs to the viceroy of Pechili province, who are starting on a mission to Viceroy Alexieff, made to him the following statement: "We sincerely believe that China will not interfere in the conflict. Doubtless certain agitators at court are in favor of Japan, but General Yun Shai Kai, who is the Empress's confidential man, the most powerful of the viceroys in China and virtual chief in the Chinese army, is too provident to expose his country to the consequences of such an adventure. The dispatch of reinforcements to the frontier is genuine, from which we conclude that China is determined to remain neutral."

The correspondent adds: "I confess that many symptoms are not in accord with this authoritative declaration."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says that six new torpedo boats have been sent out of the Nevski yards, and that ten others, modelled on the French torpedo boat Cyclone, are completed, and possibly will be sent by railway to Port Arthur.

In the course of conversation in the train while travelling from Moscow, according to this correspondent, General Kouropatkin repeated his desire that peace should be signed only in Tokio. The general said that France, Germany and Austria have agreed with Russia to prevent Great Britain intervening with another Berlin treaty, adding "We will never permit Great Britain to interfere for the purpose of depriving us of the fruits of a dearly fought victory. Korea shall be Russian."

The Temps's correspondent at Newchwang telegraphs: "I have just returned here from a tour along the Manchurian frontier. The trains are crowded with Chinese soldiers numbering upwards of 20,000, on their way to garrison the border. A Japanese attack is expected as soon as a thaw occurs, which will be in about ten days."

The correspondent of the Temps at St. Petersburg says. "The Japanese thus far have captured seven Russian merchant ships, whose commanders did not know war had begun. It is considered that the naval strength of Russia still equals that of Japan, including in the estimate the fortresses of Port Arthur, Vladivostock and the Baltic fleet."

Japs Ambushed.

St. Petersburg, March 14.—General Zilinski telegraphs as follows under yesterday's date: "On March 7th our patrol discovered four of the enemy's posts on the Chong Cheng Ang river and a troop of calvary acting as scouts near Patetchen, northwest of Anju. A Japanese cavalry patrol fell into an ambuscade prepared by our patrol and were dispersed, losing one killed. The Japanese left behind them a quantity of guncotton and some swords and blankets. The population of Manchuria is quiet.

"On the night of March 11th the enemy's ships explored Pelena bay and the shore opposite Serutchine with searchlights. According to information which has been verified the Japanese have not made any attacks north of Gensen. The populace along the Tumen river is favorable to us."

Tokio, March 15.—It is strongly believed here that the Russian fleet abandoned Port Arthur after the fourth attack was made upon it by the Japanese fleet, and is endeavoring to reach Vladivostock. Confirmation of this movement is not obtainable from any reliable source, but recent scouting in the vicinity of Port Arthur has failed to reveal the presence of any Russian warships.

It seems logical enough that the Russians should attempt a dash for Vladivostock, where it is possible to dock larger ships, effect a junction with their armored cruisers squadron and secure a base for operations while procuring adequate land defence. The hopelessness of continuing at Port Arthur is manifest, while a dash for Vladivostock might succeed, contrary to the opinion previously expressed.

Vice-Admiral Togo is unwilling to run the risk of dividing his battleship squadron and continues to operate the six battleships together.

If the Russians should make an attempt to reach Vladivostock it is believed they will try to dash through the Korean straits rather than enter the Japanese sea through the Tsugaru straits.

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT.

Story of Encounter Between Russian Cossacks and Japanese Sailor.

Tokio, March 15.—A steamer bearing ten wounded and the bodies of the nine seamen, who were killed in the Port Arthur fight on March 10th has reached Sasebo. The wounded and dead were chiefly participants in the battle between Japanese and Russian torpedo boats.

The survivors unite in praising the desparately heroic attack on the Russians, and tell a story of a sensational encounter between a Japanese sailor and the captain of the Russian destroyer Stergushitchi. When the Japanese closed on the Russians, the sailor sprang aboard the Russian craft. Sailor and captain sprang at each other, but the seaman was the quickest of the two and felled the Russian officer by striking him on the head with a cutlass. The Russian endeavored to rise, but the Japanese sailor kicked him overboard and he drowned.

The Japanese say there were twenty-two dead in two Russian destroyers. The report of the death of Engineer Minamisawa was premature. He is very low.

The Japanese dead were landed at Sasebo and received full military honors. They were borne on gun carriages to the naval brigade headquarters.

FIGHT AT CLOSE QUARTERS.

Admiral Togo Tells of the Fourth Attack on Port Arthur by Japs.

Tokio, March 13.—Vice-Admiral Togo's report of the fourth attack on Port Arthur by the Japanese fleet on March 10th, which reached Tokio late Saturday, says:

"Our squadron, as prearranged, attacked the enemy at Port Arthur on March 10th. Our two flotillas attacked the mouth of the harbor at Port Arthur at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 10th. Finding no enemy, we waited until dawn; one flotilla engaged in sinking special mines in the harbor entrance. Notwithstanding the enemy's fire, our flotilla succeeded in sinking the mines.

"The other flotilla met the enemy's torpedo flotilla, consisting of six boats, in the Liao-Thie Shan channel, south of Port Arthur, at 4.50 o'clock. A hot engagement occurred at close range for 30 minutes. The enemy then took to flight.

"Our fire greatly damaged the Russian ships, one of which was badly crippled by a shot through the boilers and another was observed to be on fire.

"So close were the two flotillas to each other that our destroyers, the Asashio Kasumi and Akatsuki, nearly touched the enemy's ships and our crews could even hear the cries of agony of the injured men on board them. We sustained some damage and loss. The Akatsuki had a steam pipe broken and four stokers were killed thereby. Our losses were seven killed and eight wounded. Among the latter is Chief Engineer Minamisawa, of the Kasumiu.

"Our other flotilla, while leaving the harbor entrance, observed two Russian torpedo boats coming from seaward and immediately engaged them. The battle lasting one hour.

"After causing them some damage one of them effected its escape, but our destroyer, the Sasanami, captured the other boat, which proved to be the Stereguschtchi. Notwithstanding the land batteries pouring in a heavy fire on our flotilla, the captured vessel was taken in tow. Owing to the high sea the towline soon parted and the Sasanami found it necessary to take the crew from the Russian boat, which finally sank at 8 o'clock.

"The enemy's cruisers, the Novik and Bayan, steamed out of the entrance of the harbor towards us, but observing the approach of our cruiser squadron, retired to the harbor. Our flotilla suffered some damage, but not heavy. The Sasanami and the Akatsuki had two sailors killed and sub-lieutenant of the Kkatsuki and three sailors were wounded.

"Our main and cruiser squadrons arrived off Port Arthur at 8 o'clock, and the cruisers immediately advanced toward the harbor entrance to protect the torpedo flotilla. The main squadron advanced near Liao-Thie Shan and opened an indirect cannonade against the inner harbor from 10 o'clock to 1.40.

"According to the observations made by one of our cruisers facing the entrance, the bombardment was remarkably effective. During our cannonade the enemy's land batteries fired, but none of our ships suffered any damage. Another cruiser squadron went to Talienwan and bombarded the enemy's fortress, damaging the buildings therein.

"The cruisers Takasago and Chikaya reconnoitered the west coast of the Port Arthur peninsula, but did not find the enemy. The Russian torpedo destroyer damaged in the third attack on Port Arthur was found to have been completely sunk, the mast only being visible above the water.

"Our squadron stopped fighting at 2 o'clock and returned to the rendezvous."

JAPAN'S SEA FIGHTERS.

Togo and Kamimiura, Commanders of Warships, Have Seen Service Before.

Admiral Count Togo, who commands the Japanese fleet operating in the waters around Port Arthur, struck the first blow on sea in the war with China in 1894 He was then a captain, commanding the Nanima, rated a second-class cruiser, but in reality a "converted" vessel, with little armor and a battery that would now be counted too heavy for her.

The Naniwa was attacked off the Korean archipelago in July, 1894, by the

ADMIRAL TOGO.

Chinese cruiser Tsi Yuan, but beat her off, with great damage to the Chinaman.

On July 25th, the Naniwa fell in with the British steamship Kowshing, chartered as a transport by the Chinese, and carrying troops and stores to Korea. Togo fired blank shots as a signal for the Kowshing to stop. The captain of the Kowshing obeyed, but when he was ordered by Togo to follow the Naniwa, the Chinese officers on board compelled him to disobey. The Kowshing endeavored to put about and run away.

Capt. Togo signalled a warning for all Europeans to leave the ship, and after an interval discharged a torpedo at the Kowshing, also opening fire with two 10.2-inch and three 5.9-inch guns. The torpedo hit the Kowshing.

"The day became night," said Lieut. von Hanneken, a Prussian officer in the Chinese service, who was on board the Kowshing. "Pieces of coal, splinters and water filled the air. I think we all jumped overboard. I did." Many of the crew reached land.

A report that Togo opened fire with his Maxim machine guns on the struggling Chinese in the water was disproved. It is true that he made no great efforts to save his enemies from drowning.

On the Naniwa Capt. Togo took a brilliant part in the great battle of the Yalu river. His ship got a shell in her coal bunkers, which did no damage. Admiral Tsubol complimented Togo on the gun practice of the Naniwa in that engagement, which was highly effective, the little cruiser earning far more than her share of the victorious result. He was one of the popular heroes of Japan before the recent victory. "The Fighting Admiral" was Count Togo's nickname when he was called last October to succeed Vice-Admiral Tsuboi as commaander of all the navy. He is a young man to be in so high a rank. He is one of the native Christians who have risen to high position. At least three Japanese captains in the engagement at Port Arthur are Christians.

Vice-Admiral Kamimiura, Togo's second in command, commanded the Akitsushima at the battle of the Yalu and gave a good account of himself then.

He is respected as a thoroughly practical officer and an able organizer. He was sent as a captain to England to take command of the battleship Asahi upon her completion on the Clyde, but his orders were changed and he was detailed with the new rank of rear-admiral to remain and supervise the construction of other vessels of war. He was recalled to Japan three years ago.

ALL QUIET.

No Further Fighting Reported From Port Arthur.

Port Arthur, March 15.—All is quiet in the Port Arthur district, and no news has been received here from the seat of the land opertions where the movements of the opposing forces are evidently confined to reconnoitering.

MOVING SOUTHWARD.

The Advance of Russians From Harbin Working Smoothly—Health of Troops Good.

Mukden, Manchuria, March 15.—(From a Russian correspondent of the Associated Press.) The advance of the Russian forces is working smoothly from Harbin southward.

The running of passenger trains has been resumed, and Russian families are proceeding on their way to Europe without confusion.

Severely cold weather, accompanied by blizzards and snowstorms, has been followed by a succession of fine days. The health and spirits of the troops are good.

Information was received at headquarters to the effect that the Japanese are strengthening their positions in Korea.

General Linevitch, acting commander of the Russian forces in Manchuria, visited headquarters here on Sunday.

General Zilinski, who is to succeed General Pflug, Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, arrived here on March 10th.

Grand Duke Cyril arrived here to-day on his way to Port Arthur, where he is going to act as chief officer on the squadron flagship.

THE RUSSIAN TROOPS.

Dispatches Referring to Movements of Soldiers Will Not Be Published.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—The report from Newchwang that four Russian steamers have been sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur after the removal of the battleship Retvizan is authoritatively denied here.

The Associated Press is assured that with the exception of the dispatch of yesterday from Gen. Zilinsky, no official telegrams containing news of fighting have been received in the last forty-eight hours. Several dispatches relative to the movement of troops have arrived, but as these were only of strategical importance their contents will not be made public.

FOR THE RUSSIANS.

Government Agents Have Closed a Deal for Five Thousand Tons of Barley.

San Francisco, March 14.—A deal for 5,000 tons of barley has been closed here with agents of the Russian government for the use of Russian troops in the field. Both Russian and Japanese agents have been negotiating in this market for some time.

M. KURINO'S MISSION.

Russians Anxious to Know Object of His Visit to Sweden.

New York, March 15.—A cable to the Herald from St. Petersburg says: "In view of the almost absurd warlike preparations of Sweden, which are known not to be in favor of Russia, people here are pointedly asking what was the nature of M. Kurino's mission to that country."

COLLIER ASHORE.

British Steamer Reported Aground Near Sasebo, Japan.

Nagaski, March 15.—The British steamer Nigretina, with a cargo of coal on board for the Japanese government, is reported ashore near Sasebo.

MUST HOLD PORT ARTHUR

Thousands of Russians Have Moved Towards the Yalu River.

London, March 16.—According to a correspondent of the Daily Mail at Newchwang, General Kouropatkin has wired Lieut.-General Stoessel that he must hold Port Arthur with the present garrison.

Rumors from the theatre of war are plentiful. The Daily Express's correspondent at Berlin gives an alleged official intimation from the Russian ambassador that Vice-Admiral Makaroff has mined the coast of the peninsula at Port Arthur, the mines extending three miles seaward.

A correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Yin Kow says that the Japanese again attacked Port Arthur on March 12th, as a challenge for Vice-Admiral Makaroff to come out and fight. During the heavy bombardment, the correspondent says, the Japanese were in a position safe from the guns of the fortress. The Russian casualties amounted to three hundred wounded. The correspondent adds that this is authentic.

No Abandonment.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—From the highest official quarters the Associated Press has received information that there is absolutely no foundation for the rumors persistently issuing from Tokio that the Russians are abandoning Port Arthur. Nothing has occurred there to warrant such reports. The Japanese fleet has not been seen for forty-eight hours. The motive of the government at Tokio in spreading this story is probably to influence public feeling in Japan for the purpose of creating enthusiasm while a war loan is being floated. The newspapers here manifest the greatest indignation, the Bourse Gazette characterizing the report as a British invention. Attention is called to the order of the day issued by Lieut.-General Stoessel, commander at Port Arthur, in which he declared that the place would never be surrendered, as representing the Russian position. Relative to this point, a military officer said to-night: "If we abandon Port Arthur we leave our fleet there to be doomed. It is too absurd to discuss."

General Kouropatkin expects to reach Mukden March 26th. Everything will be done in order to get him to the front on schedule time. The general may proceed on a flying visit to Port Arthur, but he is more likely to enter at once upon his duties as commander-in-chief of the Manchurian army. He bears an autograph letter from the Czar to Viceroy Alexieff, to whom he will report. It is understood that the Viceroy will them turn over the entire direction of the land operations to General Kouropatkin, who will transmit his reports to the Czar through the Viceroy, but practically this is the only point on which Viceroy Alexieff will maintain superiority. Gen. Kouropatkin had his plan of campaign practically perfected before he left here.

Opinion prevails here that General Kouropatkin will signalize his birthday, which occurs on March 30th, and which is also his patron saint's day, with some important act.

On account of the difficulty in housing the vast number of troops poured into Mukden, 14,000 have been sent forward within the last few days towards the Yalue river, as reinforcements for the 7,000 troops already at Kasan and Anju, and the stream of soldiers from European Russia is now being held at Harbin. The housing problem will disappear with the advent of warm weather, but in the meantime the government is hurrying forward large numbers of portable, collapsable wooden quarters, 1,600 of these having already been dispatched from St. Petersburg and 3,000 from Moscow.

Rumor of Fight.

Tientsin, March 15.—A foreigner, just arrived from Port Arthur, reports that a short engagement took place between the Russian and Japanese fleets on Sunday last, the Russian protected cruiser Diana receiving some injuries. About twenty or thirty shells were exchanged. The Imperial Chinese Railway Company is considering the withdrawal of its station force and all of its movable property from Newchwang.

Cruiser Busy.

Port Said, March 15.—The Russian armored cruiser Dmitri Donski is visibly actively patrolling in search of vessels carrying contraband of war. She mistook the Italian armored cruiser Marco Polo for a merchantman and stopped her by firing a blank cartridge across her bow. On discovering her mistake the Dmitri Donski signalled an apology. The Dmitri Donski stopped the Norwegian steamer Standard this morning. It is said the Standard was within the three-mile limit. The warship afterwards signalled her to proceed.

Correspondents Recalled.

Seoul, March 15.—The Japanese authorities have ordered the newspaper correspondents at Ping Yang and Anju to return. They also refuse to honor the permits formerly given for correspondents to accompany troops to the front and are holding them at Seoul. This action is regarded as significant.

Refugees at Chemulpo.

Washington, March 15.—A cable was received to-day from Commander Mason, of the United States cruiser Cincinnati, announcing the return of that vessel to Chemulpo, Korea, with a party of 25 refugees, mostly women and children, from the mining regions near Chinnampho.

Mediation Impracticable.

Paris, March 15.—Official denial is given of the report printed here this morning that exchanges of views are now going on between Paris, London and Washington, relative to the offering of mediation in the Far Eastern war. The foreign office here is not aware of such an exchange, and considers that mediation is impracticable, as neither would consider it.

Attack Unexpected.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—5.30 p.m.—A copy of the Novi Krai, of Port Arthur, dated February 19th, which has just reached here, definitely establishes the fact that when the first torpedo attack was made on Port Arthur it was entirely unexpected.

The Russian squadron was anchored outside in three lines, with three battleships in the rear. The captain of the battleship Czarevitch, from the bridge, could plainly trace the course of the torpedo aimed at his ship. When it exploded under the stern of the battleship the latter heeled, first to starboard and then to port at an angle of 18 degrees. Two other torpedoes, which were launched, missed the Czarevitch, one of them striking the protected cruiser Pallada.

The Czarevitch in the meantime was getting up steam and weighing anchor. She finally got under way, steering with her engines, and swung around for the harbor, but failed to make the entrance and ran aground. The Czarevitch was then down nine feet by the stern, her after compartments being flooded. She had water between her decks and some water in the wardroom. The torpedo which struck the Czarevitch contained 200 pounds of paroxlyine.

The Czar has received a long telegram from Vice-Admiral Makaroff, in command of the Russian squadron at Port Arthur, giving details of the injuries to ships as he found them on his arrival at Port Arthur and the lessons taught therefrom. This dispatch was the subject of earnest discussion at the winter palace to-day between His Majesty and the Grand Duke Alexis, the high admiral, who lunched with the Czar. They also dmiscussed the condition of the warships at Cronstadt and those building there. It is understood that His Majesty will shortly make a personal inspection of these ships.

AT PORT ARTHUR.

Everything Is Quiet and There Is No Sign of the Enemy.

Port Arthur, March 16.—Everything is quiet here. There is no sign of the enemy.

Advices from Feng Huan Cheng (about 45 miles northwest of Wiju) say Russian troops are showing an admirable spirit in surmounting the difficulties and hardships of the march over the frozen tracts of East Manchuria.

RUSSIAN SHOT.

Had Been Revealing Military Secrets to the Japanese.

St. Petersburg, March 16.—1.50 p. m.—Captain Ivkov, of the Manchurian commissariat service, has been summarily court-martialled and shot for acting as a spy in the pay of the Japanese. When arrested on suspicion, documents found in his possession left no doubt of the truth of the charges that he had long been revealing military secrets to the Japanese.

The tragic story became public through a simple announcement in the army organ this morning that Ivkov had been excluded from the service.

KOREAN RULER.

Will Return to His Palace in Outskirts of Seoul.

Seoul, March 16.—The Emperor intends to leave his town palace and return to Yunbok, his palace in the outskirts of the city.

It was here that the Queen was assassinated in 1897, and from here that the Emperor fled to the Russian legation in 1896.

His present residence is situated in the midst of the foreign legations, so that his removal to Yunbok will doubtless be more satisfactory to the Japanese government.

WILL USE ARMORED TRAINS.

Russians Believe They Will Keep Chinese Bandits Away From the Railway.

St. Petersburg, March 16.—1.50 p.m.—The reports of abandonment of Port Arthur continue to arouse the bitterest resentment, the papers denouncing the story as a stock-jobbing scheme. One paper remarks: "Let other countries be fed on such tales, but while Russian blood is flowing the authorities should not allow the people to be disturbed by such falsehoods. The official telegrams are believed and trusted by everyone."

The government is building some armored trains for use on the Manchuria railroad, after the model of those used by the British in South Africa. They will not be employed so much on account of fear that the Japanese may cut the road, as for the moral effect on the Chinese robber bands, which may become emboldened by the war. It is believed that when the bandits see the iron monsters they will not come near the railroad.

The Russ prints a long leading article controverting a series of articles in the Novoe Vremya, claiming that the war was brought on by the machinations of the Jews in revenge for the Kishineff occurrences, declaring that the Novoe Vremya's contention is absurd, and scoring the latter for sowing race hatred at such a critical time. M. Komanroff, the leader of the pan-Slavists, in the Svet, replies to the statements recently made by M. Kurino, the former Japanese minister at St. Petersburg, declaring that Japan is solely to blame for the war, "the political savages of Japan having ensnared their country in this wild adventure." The Novoesti prints an article by an expert to prove the feasibility of the Baltic fleet making the northern passage by way of the Behring straits to join the Pacific squadron in the spring.

SITUATION AT NEWCHWANG.

The Withdrawal of the British Gunboat Espiegle.

London, March 16.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Earl Percy, under secretary for foreign affairs, confirmed the statements that the British gunboat Espiegle will be withdrawn from Newchwang immediately after the river is opened, as the vessel will be in considerable danger in the event of hostilities, while her presence there would afford no effective protection of either life or property. The secretary went on to