

TWO RUSSIAN WARSHIPS DESTROYED

THE VARIAG AND KORJETZ
SUNK IN CHEMULPO HARBORRussians Were First to Attack, But Were Driven Back
After a Sharp Fight—Crews Board French Warship.

2,000 RUSSIAN VOLUNTEERS REPORTED CAPTURED

A Dispatch From St. Petersburg Claims a Russian Victory at
Port Arthur—Emperor Nicholas Issues an Official Declaration of War—Admits Jap Naval Superiority.

London, Feb. 10. — Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister here, has received official confirmation from Tokyo of the destruction at Chemulpo of the Russian first-class cruiser Variag and the third-class cruiser Korietz.

The cruiser Variag, which was built at Cramp's shipyard, Philadelphia, in 1895, was of steel and unheated. She was of 6,500 tons displacement, and her indicated horse-power was 20,000. On her speed trials she made 24 knots per hour for eight hours. She was 400 feet long, 52 feet in beam and had a depth of hold of 20 feet. The Variag's armament consisted of 12 6-inch quick-firing guns, 12 12-pounder quick-firing, 8 35-pounder quick-firing, 2 1-pounders, and 2 torpedo tubes, two of which were submerged.

The Korietz was built in Stockholm. She was of steel and was 206 feet in length, 35 in beam, 1,413 tons displacement and 1,500 indicated horse-power. Her speed was 12 knots. The armament of the Korietz consisted of 2 8-inch breech-loaders, 1 6-inch breech-loader, 4 4.1-inch quick-firing, 2 6-pounder quick-firing, 4 torpedo tubes, 2 1-pounders, and 2 torpedo tubes.

A dispatch to the Central News from Port Arthur says the Japanese fleet returned there Tuesday afternoon, and

These advices also claim that Chemulpo, Korea, has been occupied by Russian soldiers and marines. No further details of the fighting off Port Arthur have been made public here, beyond the official bulletins. No telegrams from abroad concerning the attacks have been received. All newspaper dispatches over the Siberian line have been stopped and the telegraph office refuses to accept private messages for the far east, except over the Persian line. There is skepticism expressed in certain quarters that the full extent of the Russian losses has not been given out.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—2:30 p.m.—In Government circles the official bulletins are accepted as accurately representing the extent of the naval disaster, the general impression being that the Russian authorities did not expect early success, especially at sea. The whole city awaited anxiously last night for official news. Extraordinary scenes were witnessed in and around the newspaper offices, and a crowd of people literally besieged the ministry of the interior, where the official Messenger is published, smart carriages driving up in quick succession, and the lowest of the lower inhabitants waiting in the snow-covered street, waiting patiently till far into the morning for the first numbers containing the official bulletins. When the text of these communications had leaked out the crowds expressed great indignance at the fact that nothing was said about injuries inflicted upon Japanese warships.

WHAT BERLIN THINKS.

Japan's Command of the Sea Practically Settled by Fight.

Berlin, Feb. 10. — The naval men here were doing little else at the admiralty department today than talking about the Japanese-Russian engagement, and the deduction to be drawn therefrom. One conviction was that Japan had acquired such a superiority that her command of the sea practically results. The unwillingness of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur to leave the protection of the shore batteries, and the opinion of the naval experts here, to conduct her landing operations unmolested. It is believed Port Arthur will be invested on the land side as quickly as possible. One of the Japanese objects in engaging the forts, it was further pointed out, was to draw the guns on shore. That the Japanese ships withdrew was not regarded as indicating loss.

A contrast is also made between the condition of Japanese and Russian ships. All the former were docked within six weeks, and every bit of internal apparatus was in perfect order and tuned up for action, while some of the Russian vessels, it was added, had not been docked for a year.

CZAR DECLARES WAR.

Issues a "Supreme Manifest" Calling Russians to Arms.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10. — The Official Messenger this morning contains the following "supreme manifest":

"By the grace of God, we, Nicholas, Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russias, etc., make known to all our loyal subjects:

"In our solicitude for the maintenance of peace, which is dear to our heart, we made every exertion to consolidate tranquility in the far east. In these peaceful aims we signified assent to the proposals of our Government, and to revise agreements regarding Korean affairs existing between the two Governments. However, the negotiations upon this subject were not brought to a conclusion, and Japan, without awaiting receipt of the last responsive proposals of our Government, declared the negotiations broken off, and the diplomatic relations with Russia dissolved.

"Without advising us of the fact that the breach of such relations would in itself mean an opening of warlike operations, the Japanese Government gave orders to its torpedo boats to suddenly attack our squadron standing in the outer harbor of the fortress of Port Arthur. Upon receiving reports from the vicar, in the far east about this, we immediately commanded him to answer the Japanese challenge with armed force.

"Making known this our decision, we, with unshaken faith in the help of the Almighty, and with a firm expectation of assistance from all our loyal subjects to stand with us in defense of the fatherland, we ask God's blessing upon our stalwart land and naval forces.

"Given at St. Petersburg, Jan. 27, 1904. A. D. (New Calendar, Feb. 9, 1904), and in the tenth year of our reign. Written in full by the hands of Imperial Majesty.

GREAT LOSS OF RUSSIANS.

Eleven Ships Out of Action in First Day of the War.

A summary of the losses sustained by Russia in the first 24 hours of the war with Japan show that eleven Russian warships were placed out of action in one way or another and that

SUMMARY OF WAR SITUATION.

The first forty-eight hours of the Russo-Jap war have ended greatly to the advantage of the latter. The Japanese audacity, and great naval efficiency, have put eleven of the enemy's warships out of action, two of them, the Czarevitch and the Retvizan, being amongst the most powerful in the Czar's navy. It is believed that the balance of the Russian fleet, bottled up in Port Arthur, is helpless for the present. Another of the Mikado's fleets swooped down on Chemulpo, Korea, and after a stiff fight destroyed the Russian cruisers the Variag and the Korietz. An army of twelve thousand Japanese troops has landed at Chemulpo, and unimpeded is marching toward Seoul, the Korean capital.

The Russian fleet at Vladivostok is said to be icebound. China has given assurances of her neutrality, which will prevent the coaling by Russian fleets at Chinese ports.

The Czar has issued a supreme manifesto, in which war is officially declared against Japan, and troops from all parts of the empire are being hurried to the Far East. France, Great Britain and the United States, have all declared they will remain neutral. Secretary Hay, of the United States Government, has approached the powers with a view to having China and Manchuria declared neutral. Great enthusiasm prevails throughout Russia over the declaration of war. Japanese fleet appears before Port Arthur a second time and bombards the Russian ships and fortresses.

the Japanese did not lose a ship. The losses were as follows:

1. Battleship Retvizan, torpedoed and beached at Port Arthur.
2. Battleship Czarevitch, torpedoed and beached at Port Arthur.
3. Battleship Pollava, hole below waterline, at Port Arthur.
4. Armored cruiser Boyarin, disabled by Japanese fire at Port Arthur.
5. Cruiser Pallada, torpedoed at Port Arthur and beached.
6. Cruiser Novik, hole below waterline, at Port Arthur.
7. Cruiser Gromoboy, hole below waterline, at Port Arthur.
8. Cruiser Diana, hole below waterline, at Port Arthur.
9. Cruiser Gromoboy, hole below waterline, at Port Arthur.
10. Torpedo gun vessel Korietz, destroyed at Chemulpo, Korea.
11. Gunboat Mandju, said to have been seized at the Japanese at Nagasaki, Japan.

Another report, however, says the Mandju is at Shanghai.

MAY IMITATE CERVEA.

Hayashi Thinks Russian Fleet Will Run for the Open.

London, Feb. 10. — "We were slow in negotiating, so we are making up for lost time by quickness in action," said Baron Hayashi this morning. "The engagements at Port Arthur and Chemulpo were merely in accordance with plans long matured. So soon as our forces are landed in Korea I look for an important fleet action at Port Arthur. The Russian vessels are not likely to give up the advantage they gained by being under the cover of their land batteries. By going to the Chinese side, however, the Japanese fleet, by high angle fire, can drop in shells which would make it very uncomfortable for the Russian ships. I expect the Russian fleet to be driven close to one another. Thereby it is hoped to drive out Viceroy Alexieff's force. Possibly, like Admiral Cervea, he may anticipate fate and, if come into the open of his own accord. The present events merely go to show the utter uselessness of the Russian fleet from a strategic viewpoint."

Dealing with Secretary Hay's note to the powers on the subject of preserving the integrity of China, Baron Hayashi said:

"The neutrality of China was first recognized by Baron Hayashi only four months ago. It is reported here that the Japanese fleet engaged and defeated two Russian warships, whose names have not yet been learned, at Chemulpo, Korea, today. It is said the engagement began at 11 a.m., and continued until 3 p.m. The smaller Russian vessel is reported to have been sunk and the larger one fired and hopelessly disabled. A part of the crew is reported to have escaped to the shore and the Japanese ships are reported to be slightly damaged. Official confirmation of the report is unobtainable. It was reported that the Russian cruisers, Korietz and Variag, were lying at Chemulpo yesterday, and it is possible they may have been reported to have been engaged."

In a dispatch from Tien Tsin, dated Feb. 9, a correspondent is reported there that the Russian cruisers Variag and Korietz, at Chemulpo, hauled down their flags without firing a shot, and that 8,000 Japanese immediately landed and the march to Seoul commenced. Japanese troops also landed at the chief points in Southern and Western Korea. One division of the Japanese guards holds Fusan and Chemulpo. Altogether three divisions of Japanese troops, each 12,000 men, have been mobilized.

Another correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs from Port Arthur, under date of Feb. 5, that the Russian advance has commenced. General Krastinsky will leave Liao Yang tomorrow for the Yalu River at the head of the third brigade of artillery, consisting of twenty-four guns, and three regiments of infantry. The third, fourth and fifth infantry brigades are intrenched along the railroad at a distance of 40 miles from Hail Cheng, and three batteries of the 1st heavy artillery are at the same place. The greatest activity prevails here, and ammunition is being served out at an average of 150 cartridges per man. New recruits are being enrolled with feverish haste."

LATEST WAR NOTES.

Paris, Feb. 9. — China, it is understood, has given official assurances that she will immediately issue a declaration of neutrality. This is considered highly important in view of the possibility of Chinese, impressed by the Japanese success at Port Arthur, joining the Japanese.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

Odessa, Feb. 9. — The Russian volunteer cruiser Tampov sailed today with a full cargo for the far east. The Russian steamers Kieff and Vladimir are starting for the far east this week. Copenhagen, Denmark, Feb. 9. — The Great Northern telegraph line to Japan via Vladivostok has been closed to general traffic.

CAPTURED MAIL STEAMER.

London, Feb. 9. — 7:15 p.m. — A dispatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Cervera, says that a Russian mail steamer Mongolia, which left Shanghai Sunday, was captured by the Japanese off Shan Tung Peninsula.

JAP ARMY IN KOREA.

Peking, Feb. 9. — About 1,000 Japanese troops disembarked at Chemulpo, Korea, yesterday, notwithstanding the presence there of two Russian warships.

MAY WITHDRAW.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9. — A dispatch to the Novoye Vremya from Port Arthur says: In consequence of Korea's neutrality it is assumed here that Japan will be obliged to withdraw her infantry and artillery from Seoul.

LANDED NEAR SEOUL.

Rome, Feb. 9. — Official advices received here from Tokyo say that four battalions of Japanese infantry have landed in Korea near Seoul.

WARSHIPS ICEBOUND.

It appears, the correspondent continues, that the Russian warships at Vladivostok are icebound.

HAD A NARROW ESCAPE.

The Foo, Feb. 9. — The British steamer Columbia, which arrived today from Port Arthur, reports that she had a narrow escape from injury during the Russo-Japanese naval battle. While going out of the roads at Port Arthur the Russian cruiser Novik got between the Columbia and the Japanese fleet. Shells which passed over the head of the Columbia, and the Russian flag was cut into shreds, and one shell fell on her deck. The faces of those who were on deck were blacked with powder smoke.

TO NURSE WOUNDED.

Moscow, Feb. 9. — The local Red Cross Society is besieged by women of high and low degree who are offering their services to nurse the wounded.

ARE THE FRENCH HELPING RUSSIA?

Tricolor Hoisted Over a Fortress Vacated by the Russians.

London, Feb. 9. — A dispatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Tien Tsin says: A French transport, with a battalion of troops from Kwang in hourly expected at Shan Hai Kwan, on the Gulf of Liao Tung, to garrison the forts which are being vacated by the Russians. It is reported that the tricolor of France was hoisted there this morning, and that the British officer in charge at Shan Hai Kwan protested against the French occupation. At present there is only a single sentry guarding the flag. The British commander here, Brigadier Ventris, and his chief of staff, proceeded to Shan Hai Kwan this morning.

BIG CHICAGO FIRE.

Chicago, Feb. 10. — Fire, which originated in a building occupied by the Chicago Tailor Company, last night, destroyed that plant and the plants of the Chicago Picture Packing Company, and the Wintermeier Company. Loss will aggregate \$550,000. Seven firemen were injured, one of them, N. C. Margraff, will die.

GENERAL KODAMA,
Head of Japanese Land Forces.

regret. It was frankly admitted that Russia expected to be defeated upon the seas, but it was added that she would certainly conquer on land. Information has been received here showing that the British Government will issue a declaration of neutrality, within a few days, perhaps immediately, and that France will take the same course within a day or two.

The Japanese press announces that Japan has requested China to declare coal contraband of war. The effect of this would be to restrict the main coal supply of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. The legation officials add that China's continuance of supplying the Russians with coal would be a breach of neutrality.

ANOTHER JAP VICTORY?

Reported to Have Disabled Two Warships at Chemulpo.

London, Feb. 9. — A Tokyo dispatch says: It is reported here that the Japanese fleet engaged and defeated two Russian warships, whose names have not yet been learned, at Chemulpo, Korea, today. It is said the engagement began at 11 a.m., and continued until 3 p.m. The smaller Russian vessel is reported to have been sunk and the larger one fired and hopelessly disabled. A part of the crew is reported to have escaped to the shore and the Japanese ships are reported to be slightly damaged. Official confirmation of the report is unobtainable. It was reported that the Russian cruisers, Korietz and Variag, were lying at Chemulpo yesterday, and it is possible they may have been reported to have been engaged."

FORECASTS.

Today—Northwesterly winds; fair and very cold.

Thursday—Northwesterly winds; continued very cold.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.

Calgary	-24	-24	Clear
Winnipeg	-20	-20	Cloudy
Parry Sound	-26	-26	Clear
Toronto	-6	-10	Clear
Ottawa	-16	-16	Fair
Montreal	-10	-12	Fair
Quebec	-8	-10	Cloudy
Father Point	-4	-2	Clear

The weather continues extremely cold everywhere, with very little prospect of change. A storm which is now centered just to the northward of the Gulf of Mexico will in all likelihood remain stationary, but may possibly move towards the great lakes.

Local temperatures: Tuesday—Highest, 7.5 above; lowest, 10 below.

HOW THE MIKADO'S MEN
CRIPPLED CZAR'S BIG FLEETSplendid Audacity of the Japanese Night Attack at
Port Arthur—The Russians Caught Unprepared.

TORPEDO BOATS RUN GAUNTLET OF ENEMY'S FIRE

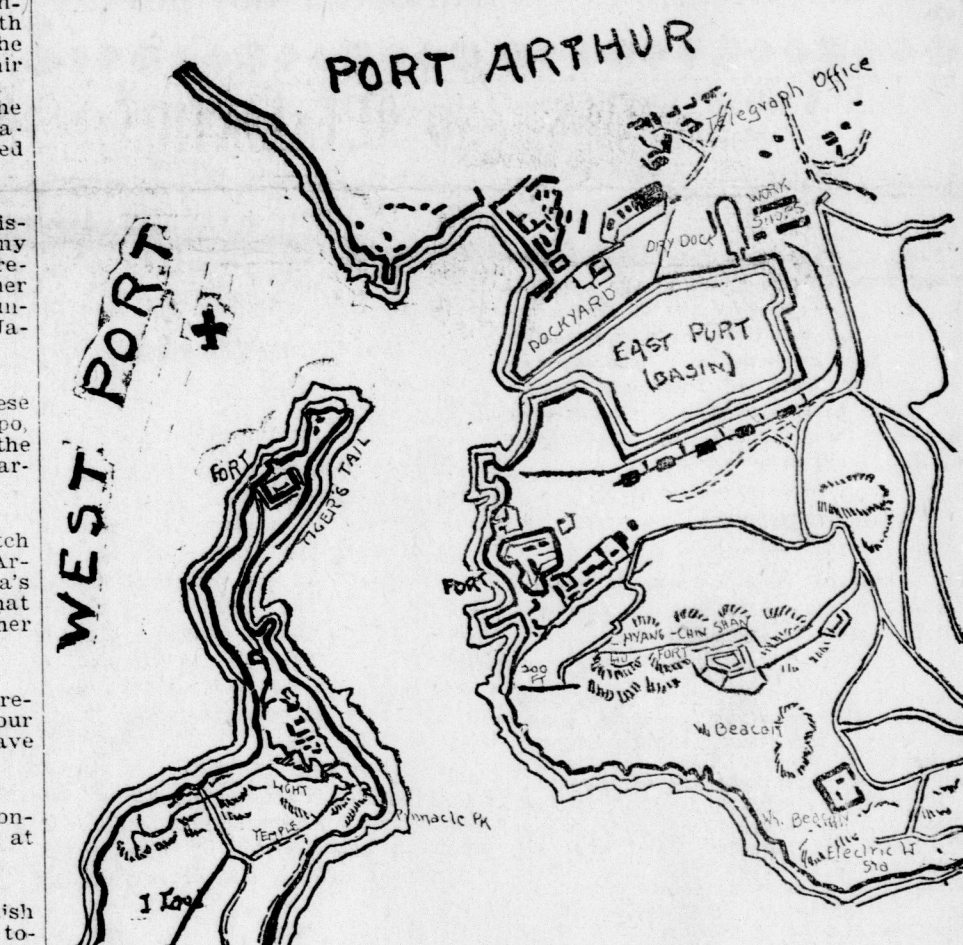
After Completing Deadly Work the Little Boats Fled to the Outer
Harbor, When the Japanese Squadron Took Up the
Fight—Dispatches Say Battle Is Still Raging.

Paris, Feb. 9. — The following official dispatch dated Feb. 9.—has been received here from Port Arthur: "A Japanese fleet composed of fifteen armored ships has bombarded Port Arthur since this morning. The Japanese fleet has gone out and a combat is in progress." La Revue Russe says it learns from St. Petersburg that this bombardment began during last night.

THE RUSSIAN REPORT.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10, 1 a.m.—The following official bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram from Viceroy Alexieff, chief of staff, dated Feb. 9.—"By order of the Viceroy I beg to report that this day at about 11 o'clock in the morning a Japanese squadron consisting of about fifteen battleships and cruisers approached Port Arthur and opened fire. The enemy was received with a cannonade from the shore batteries, and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement. At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south. One of the ships of the shore batteries was wounded, nine men killed, and forty-one men wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three were wounded. The battleships Pollava and the cruiser Novik each had a hole knocked in her side below the water line. The forts were slightly

immediately that the news of the diplomatic rupture became known. This information was conveyed to the Japanese admiral by a destroyer dispatched from Tushima, Saturday evening. The Japanese scouting cruisers had given accurate information of the precarious situation of the Russian fleet outside Port Arthur. The squadron steamed slowly in battle formation Sunday midday toward its goal, and came within sight of Port Arthur under cover of darkness. It cruised slowly outside without showing lights. The Russians were lying in the roadstead, apparently feeling secure from attack. Nearly all the Japanese torpedo boats were dispatched on their dangerous and daring task. They rushed full steam on the enemy. There were completely surprised. A great rattle of small arms greeted the invaders, who, however, escaped unhurt, and the Retvizan, the Czarevitch and the Pallada were almost immediately torpedoed. The Japanese boats escaped along the entire line of Russians, exposed by this time to a terrible fire from machine guns and small arms from both the shore batteries and the ships. There was the utmost consternation among the Russians, which probably accounts for the Japanese torpedo boats escaping practically unscathed and rejoicing the admiral's fleet. The admiral's fleet, during the attack, kept out of range of Russian searchlights. Line of battle

DIAGRAM OF PORT ARTHUR.
X Is Point at Which the Russian Warships Were Torpedoed.

ly damaged. (Signed.—Major-General Pliginskii.)

WERE UNPREPARED.

A naval officer who was recently at Port Arthur says the Russians were not prepared for the attack and had an insufficient amount of steam up. A boat patrolled the Straits of Pe Chi Li continuously, but apparently the Japanese torpedo boats were not noticed until after the first torpedo was fired. The Russians fired, but the Japanese did not return the fire, and backed off. An hour later the discharge of torpedoes repeated, of which the torpedo boats withdrew some distance. At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning the Japanese fast cruisers circled within view of the whole Russian fleet, but they were not engaged. The Russians returned toward the harbor after an hour. The Japanese came within three miles.

THE RUSSIANS POOR SHOTS.

A battle then began between the Russian forts and fourteen ships and the sixteen Japanese vessels. A few of the Japanese shells were effective, but as far as seen the Russian shots fell short. The Japanese fleet was steaming toward Dally when seen last.

The Columbia left just as Tuesday morning's contest began and was unable to learn the result. It is probable that the Japanese fleet was conveying twenty-six troop ships from Sasbo to some point in Korea. The Japanese are reported to be in possession of the southern portion of the peninsula.

The Russian war vessels at Vladivostok are the armored cruisers Rurik, Rossia, Gromoboy and the Bogatyr, a screw corvette, built in 1880. Russia has 1,000 tons of coal at Port Arthur, but the coal must be taken out to the battleships in lighters. The Russian battleships disabled by the Japanese are floated.

London, Wednesday, Feb. 10. — In a dispatch from Chefoo, dated Feb. 9, a correspondent of the Daily Express says: "The Japanese have dealt the Russians a crushing blow at Port Arthur. An advance squadron of the Japanese fleet, under command of Vice-Admiral Togo, and comprising sixteen battleships and cruisers, with a numerous flotilla, left the main fleet

was then formed, and the Japanese fleet moved within a range of two and one-half miles and opened fire on the Russians. The battle is understood to be still raging, and the widest reports are current. The Chinese population of Chefoo is in a frenzy of excitement at the reports that the Japanese, whom they now regard as their friends, scored the first victory.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Chefoo, Feb. 9. — The Japanese fleet attacked Port Arthur at midnight on Monday. Two Russian battleships and one Russian cruiser were disabled by torpedoes. The battle is being continued this morning at a range of three miles. There has been no further damage.

The steamer Columbia has arrived from Port Arthur with additional news of the attack by the Japanese fleet, upon the Russian fleet in the roads outside of the harbor of Port Arthur. The Columbia was in the roads at the time, and felt the shock of a torpedo explosion at 11 o'clock Monday night. The attack continued all night, and at daylight this morning two Russian battleships and one first-class Russian cruiser were seen to have been disabled and beached at the entrance of the harbor. The cruiser was badly damaged. This morning the Russian forts opened fire on the Japanese fleet, which was about three miles distant. The Japanese vessels returned the fire, hitting several of the Russian ships, but doing little damage. The Japanese vessels disappeared. They were seen later going in the direction of Dally, apparently undamaged. Although officers of the Columbia say there were 17 in the attacking party, only 15 were seen later in the day by the steamer Foo Chow.

The steamer Foo Chow from Dally passed through the Japanese fleet to a dispatch from Chefoo, dated Feb. 9, says that the Japanese fleet consisted of six battleships, four first-class cruisers and six other vessels. They were 18 miles from Port Arthur this morning. They were proceeding in a southeasterly direction. The Foo Chow brought 300 Japanese refugees. The Japanese consul, just returned from Dally, says

[Continued on page 5.]