to start for the Balearic islands. The war minister has also sent a circular to the military authorities ordering the recall of all soldiers on furlough, and to retain with the colors men whose service terminates on March first. These measures have caused considerable excitement.

Rumors continue to circulate, in spite of official denials, that this military activity is due to a warning from a European power that in the event of a continental war, Great Britain intended to seize points on the Spanish coast.

### COSSACKS ATTACK JAPANESE.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—A dispatch from Port Arthur to-day says the first land encounter took place yesterday.

Cossacks attacked a small detachment of Japanese troops in Korean territory.

The Cossacks captured a number of the Japanese troops, on whom they found maps and papers.

The collision was presumably between reconnoitring parties. A general engagement is not anticipated immediately.

A special Port Arthur dispatch says the Japanese fleet was observed on February 18th cruising off that port.

Reports from Northern Korea say the Koreans are showing a decidedly friendly attitude towards the Russians.

The Manchurian railroad is conveying troops without difficulty to the various points of concentration.

Native reports say that the Chinese pirates, since the outbreak of hostilities, have been displaying such activity in Eastern Asiatic waters as to almost paralyze the coasting trade.

### FRENCH WARNING.

Alleges Britain Intends to Seize Spanish Territory in the Event of War.

New York, Feb. 20.—A special cable from Berlin to the Herald says:

"According to a telegram from the Madrid correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt the French government has confidentially given warning to the Spanish cabinet of the secret plans of the British government to seize parts of Spanish territory in the case of war.

"This is the reason why Spain is sending troops to the Canary islands, Ceuta, Galacia and the neighborhood of the Straits of Gibraltar. The French government has also advised the strengthening of the fortifications on certain parts of the Spanish coast.

"Baron Rischth, minister of foreign affairs, says that in view of the outbreak of war it is impossible for Germany to withdraw the 2,600 men she has in China, and at Kado. The troops in China are the backbone of the maintenance of order in China.

"Sweden is now following the example of Denmark and is also arming."

### NEEDLESS ANXIETY.

Uneasiness Regarding Probability of European War Not Shared By Britain.

London, Feb. 20.—Count Benkendoff, the Russian ambassador, left London this morning for St. Petersburg. The afternoon newspapers made sensations out of his departure, connecting it with rumors that the Czar was displeased with his ambassadors at Washington and London, and with his late minister at Tokio, owing to the recent turn of events, and out of the baseless rumors of threatening European troubles.

The Russian embassy has said positively that Count Benkendorff has gone to St. Petersburg for three days to bid farewell to his son, who is going to the Far East with his regiment. The embassy added that the ambassador's journey was in no way connected with his position as ambassador. The foreign office here confirms this.

The uneasiness exhibited on the continent in regard to possibility that a European war may ensue from the Far Eastern trouble is not shared by Great Britain. No power has made such complete preparations for every contingency, and yet nowhere is confidence greater that the hostilities will be confined to Russia and Japan, than it is in London. The naval and military preparations announced from continental capitals are regarded here as being mere common-sense measures which any power must adopt, however remote the contingency of their employment may appear.

It is thought that the lull in the actual war news has led many European correspondents to employ their spare time in exaggerating the continental action and in applying such steps as have actually been taken to erroneous motives. The latest of these, the dispatch from Madrid announcing that preparations have been made to send reinforcements to the Balearic islands, meets with emphatic denial in interested quarters, and the additional statements from Madrid that Great Britain intends to seize Spanish points in the event of war has not even the semblance of probability.

The Associated Press learns that at the present moment Spain and Great Britain are on the verge of concluding an arbitration treaty and that in other ways their diplomatic relations are closer than they have been for years past.

At the Spanish embassy here it was emphatically declared that the movements of Spanish troops were not due to a warning from Great Britain or any other power, but were simple and unimportant precautions that all nations must make when one of the great powers is involved in war.

### RUSSIAN STATEMENT.

Another Version of the Rupture of Negotiations With Japan.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—A Russian account of the events immediately preceding the rupture with Japan is published in the Official Messenger to-day with the "object of rectifying certain statements from Japanese sources."

In this account it is stated that on receipt of the last Japanese proposals on January 16th, the government immediately proceeded to examine the Japanese demands, and on January 25th M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, was informed in reply to his inquiry, that the Czar had entrusted the proposals to a special conference, the members of which would meet on January 28th, and that His Majesty's decision would probably not be given before February 2nd.

On the last named date Emperor Nicholas ordered the preparation of a draft of definite instructions to Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister to Japan, based on the deliberations of this conference. On February 3rd, identical telegrams were sent to Viceroy Alexieff and Baron de Rosen containing the text of the draft of the proposed Russian agreement with a full statement of the negotiations which prompted Russia to modify the Japanese proposals and general instructions to Baron de Rosen concerning the presentation of the reply to the Japanese government. The Russian Foreign Minister Lamsdorff notified M. Kurino of the dispatch of the Russian reply.

On February 5th, Viceroy Alexieff notified the foreign office of Baron de Rosen's receipt of the reply.

On February 6th, at 4 p.m., M. Kurino quite unexpectedly handed to Count Lamsdorff two notes notifying him of the rupture of the negotiations and of the diplomatic relations, and adding that he, M. Kurino, and his staff, would leave St. Petersburg on the 10th. These notes were accompanied by a private letter from M. Kurino to Count Lamsdorff, expressing the hope that the rupture of relations would be confined to the shortest possible time.

On the same day Viceroy Alexieff, Baron de Rosen and all the Russian representatives at Pekin, Tokio and the capitals of the great powers were informed by urgent telegrams of the rupture of relations and of the issue of an imperial order withdrawing the Russian legation from Tokio, and laying on Japan the responsibility of all consequences ensuing.

The communication declares: "Although the breaking off in diplomatic relations by no means implied the opening of hostilities, the Japanese government, as early as the night of February 8th and during February 9th and February 10th, committed a whole series of revolting attacks on the Russian warships and merchantmen, attended by violations of international law. The decree of the Emperor of Japan declaring war was not issued until February 11th."

### REPLY ACCEPTABLE.

Germany Announces Adherence to Principles Contained in Secretary Hay's Note.

Berlin, Feb. 20.—The foreign office several days ago instructed the German ambassador at St. Petersburg and the minister of Germany at Tokio to communicate to the governments to which they are accredited Germany's adherence to the principles contained in Secretary Hay's note on the neutrality of China. Both powers gave a general assurance that those principles were acceptable to them.

### ACCIDENT TO MILITARY TRAIN.

Dashed Into Snowbank at Baikal Station—One Soldier Killed and Nineteen Injured.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—With reference to the sensational stories of a disaster to Russian troops at Lake Baikal, one report saying that three regiments were drowned while attempting to cross the ice-covered lake, it is explained that the trans-Baikal line was blocked at the Baikal station during the night of February 18th by an avalanche of snow, which fell from a neighboring mountain. A train, having troops on board, dashed into the obstruction. The locomotive was derailed, one soldier killed, five severely injured and fourteen slightly hurt. Traffic was said to be resumed the following day.

Further advices from Port Arthur today say that all the women and children and most of the male civilians have left that place, and that practically only the garrison remains.

The wave of patriotism sweeping over the Empire seems to be swamping racial feeling, even the wild tribes of the Caucasus, the discontented Finns and sullen Poles forgetting their grievances and coming forward to volunteer their services to the common fatherland. An instance of devotion among the Czar's Hebrew subjects is afforded by the act of 45 Jewish doctors in throwing up their practices to go to the front.

The Czarina, who takes great personal interest in the work of providing for the sick and wounded in the war, presided at a special meeting of the Ladies' Patriotic Society, which was attended by several grand duchesses and others of the highest ladies in the land. During the discussion in regard to utilizing the services unsparingly, offered by the girls and women of Russia for the relief of the wounded, the Czarina proposed to temporarily suspend studies in the girls' schools, in order that girls might be able to devote the school hours to sewing.

### PARIS EXCITED.

Wild and Conflicting Reports Are Current in the French Capital.

Paris, Feb. 20.—Wild excitement prevailed on the Bourse to-day as the result of startling contradictory reports concerning possible world power complications growing out of the war. These rumors included the prospective mobilization of the German and French armies.

The evening papers also said that serious influence was exercised by the reported difficulties between the United States and Russia in consequence of the refusal of Russia to grant an exequatur to Mr. Morgan as United States consul at Dalny.

### TO INCREASE NAVY.

Money Being Collected in Russia to Build Warships.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.—According to the terms of an imperial order just issued, political suspects under police surveillance are permitted to enter the army in the field as privates, after which the minister of the interior and the minister of justice can order the withdrawal of police supervision over such persons.

Another decree appoints a special commission under the presidency of Hereditary Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, brother of the Czar, to arrange for the most speedy construction of submarine boats, cruisers and other vessels, to meet the expense of which public subscription has been startetd by the press.

### WILL DEFEND FORTRESS.

Port Arthur, Feb. 20.—Major-General Pflung, the chief-of-staff of Viceroy Alexieff, telegraphed from Port Arthur today as follows:

"The situation at Port Arthur is unchanged.

"A squad of Cossucks, marching from Wiju, captured a Japanese major, Tatsaru, with five soldiers and two civilians. The reports regarding the enemy are generally contradictory and scarce.

"It is reported that troops of Yuan Shi Kai, commander-in-chief of the Chinese army, are being dispatched to Tsin-Chou and Kupang-Tse. All is quiet in Manchuria."

A later dispatch from Port Arthur announces that, by order of Viceroy Alexieff, an irregular volunteer corps is being raised to defend the fortress. The men will be provided by the state with arms, rations and the necessary clothing. It is thought, the dispatch adds, that Japan regards foodstuffs consigned to Port Arthur as also contraband of war, and that she will undertake to compel the capitulation of Port Arthur by a siege.

The ministry of finance has warned all Russian merchant ships to remain south of Shanghai, as the Japanese have a squadron composed of one battleship, two first and two second-class cruisers and eleven torpedo boats off Amoy, China, for the purpose of intercepting merchantmen.

The refusal of the commander of the United States gunboat Vicksburg to unite with the commanders of other foreign warships at Chemulpo, to protest against the fighting there on February 8th, which resulted in the loss of the Russian warships Variag and Korietz, and the fact that the Vicksburg did not take on board any of the survivors, have created unfavorable comment here.

A Russian correspondent of the Associated Press at Port Arthur, reports that the steamer Shilka left Vladivostock on February 3rd, and arrived at Tsu-Shima (a Japanese island northwest of Nagasaki) on February 6th. The vessel was seized, and without further explanation taken to Nagasaki Bay. The Japanese passengers were landed, but Captain Kosturin successfully opposed the landing of his Chinese passengers, who were bound for Chefoo.

The Czar, according to those who have access to his presence, feels keenly the outbreak of hostilities, and sorrows at the burdens the war entails. Since the bombardment of Port Arthur, the Czar has been much occupied with conferences, and has only appeared in public on one or two occasions, to review departing troops, or to show himself at a window of the Winter Palace to acknowledge patriotic demonstrations. Persons who have seen His Majesty, say he is looking sad and careworn, and that his well known kindness of heart causes him to feel acutely the loss of his men. His Majesty's sole recreation now consists in a morning saunter in the snow-covered palace garden. He is invariably accompanied by five Samoye dogs, which have been trained to march in single file behind him.

When His Majesty addressed some troops a few days ago and admonished them in these words, "Remember, your enemy is brave, bold and cunning," he could not disguise his emotion. He is grieved over what he considers to be the treacherous conduct of the Japanese. It is known that the Czar has received at least three personal letters from European sovereigns expressing their heartfelt sympathy. The potentates are the Emperor William of Germany, King Christian of Denmark and King Oscar of Sweden and Norway. The letter from the Emperor William concludes with the significent words: "God is with us." The others are of the friendliest character, and contain warm assurances.

Military activity is proceeding on an ever-increasing scale, and all is in readiness for the mobilization of the entire Russian army, should that become necessary. In a fortnight 100,000 additional troops will be in Manchuria. Three army corps of Siberian Rifles have already been organized, and a fourth will soon be completed. There is also a brigade of Cossack artillery, armed with excellent mountain guns.

General Kouropatkin has been relieved of his functions as minister of war and has been appointed commander-in-chief of the Russian army in the Far East.

A dispatch from Harbin, dated February 20th, says that the railway is in working order, and that the Japanese who attempted to blow up the bridge over the Sungari river have been hanged. Bands of bandits have been observed under Japanese leadership, and are being pursued. Almost all the civilian inhabitants of Harbin have left, and the remainder of the population is quiet. The movement of troops is causing heavy traffic on the railway. All the Japanese laborers on the railroad have fled and the Chinese laborers returned to work after their New Year celebrations.

In Port Arthur.

Yin Kow, Feb. 20.—By means of a special permission obtained from Major-General Pflug, Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, a newspaper correspondent succeeded in passing the lines under official escort, and visited Port Arthur, which is closed to all civilians. The correspondent gives the following account of conditions generally:

"Only 30 per cent. of the population remains at Port Arthur, and many of these are leaving. The trains are still crowded with refugees. Railroad conditions are excellent and trains are running on schedule time. The peninsula of Liago Tung is quiet. Adequate guards are maintained at all culverts and bridges and preparations for defence are being continued. The troops in the vicinity of Kin Chow are active. A strong force is guarding the narrowest section of the peninsula.

"The authorities have mitigated war conditions at Port Arthur by fixing the prices of foodstuffs. The prices of other commodities, however, have advanced. The authorities have taken possession of all food supplies in the stores which were deserted by Chinese and other merchants. They are providing for a siege by sending wheat milling machinery to Port Arthur, and claim that there is a sufficient food supply there for resistance for two years.

"Japanese refugees, under the personal supervision of the viceroy and General Plancon, are leaving Port Arthur on released ships.

"The repairs to the Russian fleet are proceeding. The cruiser Novik has been docked, but the condition of the battleships Czarevitch and Retvizan remains unchanged. Engineers say that the Retvizan will be floated in a few days.

"The officials' reports commend Capt. Essen, of the Novik, and Capt. Bersian, of the cruiser Bayan, for gallant conduct on February 9th, and indicate that, in spite of the fact that no Japanese losses were reported, the Russians did some damage."

"Captain Stepanoff, who was in command of the torpedo transport Yenesei, which was reported to have blown up from accidental contact with a mine, is declared to have died an heroic death in trying to save his crew.

"The city is darkened every night, but Viceroy Alexieff's house is lighted, although the people understand that he is at Harbin.

"General Valkoff is in command of the non-combatant forces at Harbin. Generals Linevitch and Vondratovitch are at Liao Yang (about half way between Newchwang and Mukden.) When the Tenth Regiment is near Kin Chow, the Ninth Regiment near Liao Chang and Seventeenth Regiment near Liao Yang, it is intended to commence a simultaneous march toward the Yalu river.

"While Major-General Pflung is advancing the troops from Mukden to the Yalu, he will at the same time be strengthening his centre and preparing to defend the railroad and the north gulf coast in force. The military authorities are thoroughly aware of the unpreparedness to rush reinforcements.

"An enormous consignment of artillery is reported to be en route from Russia, and it is said without hesitation that there were not over 275,000 troops in Manchuria and at Vladivostock when the war began.

"The administration authorities of Port Arthur assert that the Japanese have landed in Korea only."

Movement of Scouts.

Tokio, Feb. 20.—Three hundred Russian scouts reconnoitred yesterday in Wiju and vicinity. They crossed the Yalu river, entered the town and scouted throughout the surrounding country. They then recrossed the river and joined their main force.

Advices to the Japanese government from Pekin say that, while at Mukden, Viceroy Alexieff asked the Chinese troops to aid in the guarding of the railway, so as to prevent the interruption of traffic. The Chinese government told them to inform Viceroy Alexieff, as Russia insisted that the Chinese were unable to guard the railway in time of peace, surely Russia could not expect them to guard it in time of war.

No Jap Ships Damaged.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Comander Takashita, naval attache of the Japanese legation, states that the report published this morning that a Japanese cruiser and torpedo boat were sunk in the engagement off Chemulpo, is entirely unfounded. The official report of Admiral Uriu, commanding the Japanese squadron on that occasion, states that there were no casualties on the Japanese side. Commander Takashita also says that the statement that the Japanese squadron consisted of eight vessels is incorrect unless in that number are included the transports and torpedo boats.

Rumors of Recall.

Paris, Feb. 20.—Exchange of communications of a friendly character have occurred between France and Japan with respect to the stay of the Russian squadron at Jibutil, French Somaliland. France did not hesitate to make a complete explanation of her reasons for not ordering the Russian ships to depart, and it is said in reliable quarters this explanation was thoroughly satisfactory to the Japanese government.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Figaro cables that the Russian squadron at Jibutil, French Somaliland, on the Gulf of Aden, has been ordered to Cronstadt. The Russian squadron at Jibutil consists, as far as is known, of the battleship Oslabya, the cruiser Aurora, the cruiser Dmitri Donskoi and a number of torpedo boat destroyers. It was reported from St. Petersburg February 15th, that this squadron had been instructed to remain at Jibutil until further orders. It has been suggested that the stopping of these warships at Jibutil has lead to international representations, Jibutil being a neutral French port.

### "OUR ANCIENT ALLY."

Russians Wonder Why Attitude of the United States Has Changed.

Chicago, Feb. 20.—"Russia will look on the present attitude of the United States towards her as a visitation of divine justice because she did not heed the appeals from the Boers for help during their struggle against Great Britain," said Baron Eugene de Fersen, a Russian nobleman, cousin of Baron A. A. Schlippenbach, Russian consul at Chicago, who is here on a visit.

"Time and again," continued the Baron, "did President Kruger appeal to Russia for sympathy and help against England, and as often did the Russian government refuse to aid the Boers.

"In the conquest of the Philippines by the United States no note was heard from Russia. But when Russia peaceably occupied Manchuria, pouring millions into the development of the country and its great resources, does the United States hold aloof from our affairs? No. There is developed in the United States a great interest in the preservation of the integrity of China. Russians wonder why the United States, whom we have always looked upon as our friends, should turn upon us."

New York, Feb. 22.—A dispatch from Newchang to the World says it is reported that the Russian and Japanese outposts on the Yalu have been engaged, and that the Russians suffered considerable loss, about 2,500.

No details are obtainable.

### WILL NOT HURRY.

Japs Will Probably Advance as Construction of Railway to the Yalu Progresses.

London, Feb. 22.—The latest advices of Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain, led him to believe that the Japanese troops may now wait possibly two or three months before undertaking aggressive operations in Manchuria. He said:

"We have found that Russia is so unexpectedly unprepared that I should not be surprised if the Japanese land forces contented themselves with establishing a thorough organization and advancing as the construction of the railway towards the Yalu river progresses. Russia appears to be less prepared than was China in 1895. I believe that only three trains a day can be run through Manchuria. Supposing these are equally divided between troops and supplies, as would be necessary, Russia could not perceptibly strengthen her land forces before April. Japan's naval coup had been so unexpectedly successful that I rather think our troops will take their time. The shallow inlets are now frozen over, retarding the disembarkation of our forces. This is especially true at Port Arthur, where an early landing of troops is impossible owing to the ice."

Baron Hayashi does not credit the report that 2,500 Russians have been killed in an outpost engagement at the Yalu river. He says there is no Japan force in that vicinity enough to inflict such a loss.

The only naval development Baron Hayashi expects in the near future is a possible attack on the Japanese fleet by the powerful Russian torpedo flotilla at Port Arthur and hitherto unused.

On the Japanese side, except possible actions against Russia's Vladivostock squadron, the Japanese does not look for developments at present, believing that Admiral Togo was satisfied to keep the disabled Russian squadron prisoners at Port Arthur.

The minister credits the Russians with having barely 100,000 troops in Manchuria.

### ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

Report Not Confirmed, But Japanese Navy Department Consider It Probably True.

Tokio, Feb. 22.—It is reported here that Vice-Admiral Togo has again attacked Port Arthur.

It is impossible to confirm the statement, but the navy department says it has had no news from Togo to-day.

It is considered very probable that the Vice-Admiral has made another attack on the Russians as he is engaged in blockading Port Arthur.

### FOR THE YALU.

Russian Troops Are Being Rushed Forward as Quickly as Possible.

Chefoo, Feb. 22.—The captain of the German steamer Pronto, just arrived from Dalny, says positively that besides the torpedo gunboat Yenisei, accidentally destroyed by one of her own mines, the Russians have just lost another ship by an accident on the 12th instant. This was a small cruiser whose name was not learned. In avoiding some mines she ran upon rocks, which she eventally slipped off into deep water and sank. There was no loss of life attached to the casualty.

The Russian authorities insist that there is no truth in the story that a force of one thousand Japanese, landed at Pigeon or Dove bay, had been annihilated.

Port Arthur is said to be entirely out of beef and vegetables and drawing upon Dalny for a slim supply.

Troops are being rushed towards the Yalu with all expedition possible.

The Pronto was sent from Port Arthur to Dalny for refugees, chiefly Japanese women. While leaving Port Arthur, with all lights out, she was fired upon by a Russian cruiser, fifteen shots striking her upper works. It was subsequently explained that she was mistaken for a Japanese torpedo boat. The entrance to Dalny is honeycombed with mines. Nothing was seen on the passage to this port of either the Russian or the Japanese fleets.

The small Russian cruiser reported destroyed in the above dispatch was probably the Boyarin, previously announced to have been blown up by a mine in Port Arthur on February 13th. Another account said she ran on the rocks while endeavoring to pick up a number of mines which had been brought to the surface. It was stated in a St. Petersburg report of the disaster that the entire crew, 197 in number, were lost.

### ONLY TEMPORARY.

Time May Come When Neutrality of China Will Be Neither Possible Nor Desirable.

New York, Feb. 22.—The Chinese minister here, says a cable to the World from Berlin, with an ostentation that has been entirely foreign to him, has proclaimed that China's neutrality is only temporary; that no one, even the astutest diplomats, can tell what change a day may bring forth in China's attitude. Says the minister in a published interview: "It should never be forgotten that the war will be fought out in Manchuria on Chinese territory, and that the excitement of the Chinese people will increase as the war progresses.

"Naturally, therefore, the Chinese government may be expected on any one day to decide that its continued neutrality is neither possible nor desirable. Thirty thousand drilled Chinese troops are stationed in the province of Chi Li ready at a moment's notice from Pekin to enter Manchuria. Our nation admires the Japanese and sympathizes decidedly with their efforts."

Although no one in authority here will say that the Asiatic cruiser squadron is being mobilized at Shanghai, says the Washington correspondent of the Herald, because of the report that a Chinese squadron is going to drive the Russian cruiser Mandjur out of the harbor, it is understood this may have something to do with the direction of American naval activity in the Far East. It is believed here by some that the action of China, if she demands the Russian cruiser's withdrawal, will have to be supported by the powers, most of whom have warships at Shanghai. It is claimed that other nations are bound to help China maintain her neutrality if she finds she cannot do so herself.

### WILL RENEW ATTEMPT.

Russian Vladivostock Squadron Will Return to Hakodate Next Month.

Nagasaki, Feb. 22.—The steamer Stolberg has arrived here from Vladicostock with twenty white foreigners, 150 Chinese and 50 Japanese. She brings in addition forty survivors of the Japanese steamer Nakonoura Maru, which was sunk by the Russian cruiser squadron from Vladivostock on February 11th. Two of these were drowned during their transfer to the Russian ships. The survivors were well treated and provided with return passage.

The Vladivostock squadron intended to bombard Hakodate but a snowstorm prevented the vessels from entering the Straits of Tsuruga. They intend to make another attempt to reach Hakodate in March with cruisers, five torpedo boats and an armed transport.

The civilians at Vladivostock have been ordered to leave owing to the scarcity of food, as the government is taking everything available. Panic has seized the Chinese, who are leaving by the wholesale.

### SATISFACTORY REPLY.

Russian Fleet, Except Two Torpedo Boats, Have Left Jibutil.

Tokio, Feb. 22.—The assurances of France that the Russian fleet, except two torpedo boat destroyers, which have been disarmed, and will be detained until the war ends, have left Jibutil, French Somalland, reached Tokio to-day and produced a feeling of general satisfaction.

The government is confident of the intention of France to refrain from permitting the Russians to use its ports as bases for naval operations, but is concerned over the long delay of the Flotilla at Jibutil and has made representations to France on the subject.

### TRANSPORTS RETURNING.

The Russian Boats Enter Suez Canal Bound For Port Said.

Suez, Feb. 22.—The Russian transports Orel and Smolensk, which recently traversed the canal bound for the Far East, returned here to-day and entered the canal on their way to Port Said.

### STEAMER SEIZED.

The Rosalie Captured By the Russians at Vladivostock.

London, Feb. 22.—The owners of the British steamer Rosalie, from Cardiff, November 22nd, for Vladivostock, and which sailed from Nagasaki on January 18th, have been notified that she has been captured by the Russians at Vladivostock.

### DELAY NECESSARY.

Russian Paper Says It Will Be Some Time Before Extensive Operations Are Necessary.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—Carnival week closed on Saturday night, and yesterday all classes of the populace, from the highest to the lowest, began the observance of Lent, with even more vigor than usual, doing penance and praying for the success of the Russian arms.

The Czar will pass the week fasting in the Winter Palace, and immediately afterward the court will remove to Tarskoeselo, seventeen miles south of St. Petersburg.

The Nova Vremya, commenting upon the report of M. Paveloff, who was Russian minister at Seoul, of the fight at Chemulpo, declares that the Japanese action takes them from the list of civilized powers and predicts a revival of European solidity against the "wild Asiatic enemy." The paper points out the inevitability of long delay before extensive military operations will be possible, owing to the immense area to be defended and the rigors of the climate.

### MINISTER'S VIEW.

M. Delcasse Says Russian Operations Will not Begin Until April.

Paris, Feb. 22.—The Gil Blas affirms that at the last council of ministers it was decided definitely to put off President Loubet's visit to Italy, but the reason for the postponement of the President's trip has not yet been announced.

Foreign Minister Delcasse informed President Loubett and his colleagues that the Russian army operations will not begin seriously before April, and it is considered impossible that the President shall take part in the fetes which will attend his visit while the ally of France is engaged in a desperate struggle.

### SITUATION IMPROVING.

Railway Officials Think the Worst of Winter Is Now Over.

Montreal, Feb. 20.—Improved conditions in the railway situation are reported. In general reports tell of weather mild and cloudy. The Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk officials are more hopeful and feel that the worst is over. In many places there is a coal and wood famine owing to the branch lines of the Grand Trunk being sealed up. Several attempts have been made recently to give relief in the neighborhood of Huron, Kincardine and contiguous places, but without success.

It is estimated that the Canadian Pacific has suffered to the extent of $250,000.

At Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Feb. 20.—The flour plant of Ogilvie's Milling Company is standing idle, as a result of the fuel scarcity, caused by the snow blockade along the railways. The flour mill, employing about 150 men, has not been able to turn a wheel since Thursday morning, and the oat mill is running on half time, the power being contributed from some slight wood fuel.

Travellers who left Gainsboro on the Souris branch of the Canadian Pacific railway for Winnipeg, only reached here yesterday on the road. The delay was caused by the snow blockade which has interrupted railway traffic generally during the past week.

Water Supply Frozen.

Glace Bay, N. S., Feb. 20.—The Dominion No. 2 the largest of the collieries operated by the Dominion Coal Company, has closed down for want of water, throwing about 1,500 men out of employment. The big dam above the colliery is frozen solid to the bottom.

### EXPLOSION IN PARIS.

Fire Followed and Number of People Were Burned to Death.

Paris, Feb. 20.—An explosion occurred to-day in a factory in the Rue de Antone. The explosion occurred in a room on the fourth story and drove bricks and pieces of glass against a house on the other side of the street and immediately afterwards enormous jets of flame burst out of the windows. Soon the entire structure was on fire. Simultaneously with the appearance of the flames a number of men and women employed on the opper stories, and who had been eating their luncheon, appeared at the windows and shrieked for assistance. Three men attempted to drop from a window to a balcony beneath, but missed it and fell to the pavement below, and were killed. The firemen rescued several persons. When the flames were under control five victims were found in a corridor leading to the street. They had been asphyxiated and then incinerated. In all fourteen bodies, all unidentified, were conveyed to the morgue. Five persons were badly burned, two may die.

"I had scrofula and erysipelas for eighteen years, until I heard

Of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery," writes Mr. Hilery Koons, of Queens, W. Va. "When I commenced to take this medicine I weighed one hundred and thirty pounds. I have taken six bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and three vials of his 'Pleasant Pellets,' and am glad to say I feel like a new man. I now weigh one hundred and seventy-five pounds. When I had used one bottle of the medicine I could feel it was helping me. I realize Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is the best medicine on earth."

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery purifies the blood and entirely eradicates the poisons that breed and feed disease. It cures scrofula, eczema, erysipelas, boils, pimples and other eruptions that mar and scar the skin. Pure blood is essential to good health. The weak, run-down, debilitated condition which so many people experience is commonly the effect of impure blood. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery not only cleanses the blood of impurities, but it increases the activity of the blood-making glands, and it enriches the body with an abundant supply of pure, rich blood.

FREE. Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to pay expense of customs and mailing *only*. Send 31 one-cent stamps for the book in paper covers, or 50 stamps for the cloth-bound volume. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

# POSITION WEAK IN THE FAR EAST

## RUSSIA UNABLE TO SUSTAIN HER TROOPS

### That Is Opinion of Oriental Exchanges —Slavs' Cruelties at Vladivostock —Pirates on the Move.

A Japan exchange arriving on the Athenian this morning, in commenting on the situation, points out that Russia's position is very weak in the Far East. Even though she occupies Manchuria she cannot rely upon the produce of the territory to sustain her troops and population, and she must have recourse to supplies from Japan, Korea and China. In the event of the two last-named countries declaring neutrality, and of Great Britain and the United States following suit, communication will be entirely cut off. Moreover, Russia is compelled to expose a great number of her troops in the wilderness and to keep her battleships in a harbor that lacks docking facilities, and procrastination is therfore, the paper thinks, rather more detrimental than beneficial if Russia means to push her claims to the bitter end. In the circumstances, the paper assumes that the Russian cabinet is divided and incapable of giving a definite decision upon a vital question. Russia is, therefore, at the mercy of Japan, and Japan has nothing whatever to fear as to the probable issue.

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The directors of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have considered it advisable to address a circular to all the company's branches and agencies pointing out that the error must be avoided of imagining that the employment of the company's steamers in the public service will be a source of profit as was the case in the China-Japan war. There is a vital difference of conditions. At the time of the China-Japan war the company was in receipt of a fixed amount of subsidy irrespective of the service maintained by it, and the temporary interruption of those services did not cause any interruption of the subsidy. But the present system is that the sums allowed by the treasury are for services actually performed, and since the services cannot be performed owing to withdrawlal of the steamers for other purposes, the payments from the treasury necessarily cease. In addition to the loss of this important source of income, there is the fact that the steamers are chartered at very low rates, much lower than those now ruling in the open market. Thus from every point of view the company will suffer heavily, and its employees are warned to be prepared for the fact.

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According to a leading article in the Jiju Shimpo, the Russians have been guilty of excessive cruelty at Vladivostock. Shortly before hostilities broke out a party of Russian marines landed and deliberately proceeded to run riot through the residences of the Japanese. They broke into twenty-four houses, put women to shame, wounded old people and children, smashed furniture, stole valuables and behaved generally as though it was a question of sacking a city in mediaeval times. It was stated that they were accompanied by two or three officers, that the civil officials made no attempt to check these excesses, and that a reign of terror lasted for a whole day and night. The paper asks what is to be expected by Japanese subjects in time of war if, while peace still prevails, such shocking deeds are permitted? The only prudent course was to remove all Japanese subjects from Siberia and Manchuria.

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A few days before the war in the Far East broke out, the Japan Mail contained the following:

A warning is said to have been furnished of the dangers Russia would have to apprehend in connection with her single line of railway did war break out. At twelve places the line between Dalny and Tashikiao bombs are said to have been placed. Fortunately they were discovered before any casualties ensued. The outrage is attributed to Chinese coolies who have fallen into great distress owing to a sudden lowering of wages by the Russian authorities. Great numbers of these coolies were employed transporting goods between Newchwang and Port Arthur. But many of them have been thrown out of employment and the others find it difficult to support life on the pittance they are earning. If the greater part of the inhabitants of Manchuria were bent upon doing an injury to the railway, it would become a very precarious asset.

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In the Asahi Shimbun there is a telegram conveying intelligence as to a message said to have been sent to the Pekin government by its representative in Llassa. The Chinese official says that the Russians resident in Thibet are urging the Dalai Lama to oppose the entry of the British expedition into his country, and are promising that in the event of the British refusing to withdraw Russia will lend aid to Thibet. Apparently a new source of trouble is brewing in connection with the last of the hermit kingdoms. Thibet has managed to prolong her anchorite existence beyond all previously imaginable limits, but her time has now come, and it would seem that she too has not learned many lessons from the teachings of international politics.

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A Canton correspondent writes on January 18th: "Reports of piracies and robberies frequently reach me. They are likely to increase now as Chinese New Year approaches. Here is the latest: The passengers on the launch and junk that arrived here yesterday morning from Yeung Kong had a thrilling experience and a narrow escape. When in the West river, just outside Kong Moon, the launch and junk were attacked by a dozen small boats that were filled with pirates. The junk was well provided with arms. After a sharp fight the pirates were driven off. There was no loss of life on the junk, but it is reported that several of the robbers were killed. Dr. Paul J. Todd, one of the surgeons of the Canton hospital, was a passenger on the junk."

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With reference to the burning of the O. S. K.'s liner Daikyo Maru, the Jiji reports that the steamer is of 2,243 tonnage and was built in May, 1900. The fire originated in the steerage at about 9 o'clock on January 20th, while about one mile up to Wuhu. The steamer was ultimately run ashore, where it was completely destroyed. The first and second class passengers and crew were all saved but the casualties to the steerage are not yet ascertained. Two mail bags were saved.

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