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ons wanting stock out with this who have already purchased, can applying for space on or before y of April next. communications to L. W. PAISLEY, of the Dairyman's and Live sociation, Chilliwack, B. C.

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ry probable, the Argonaut nse excitement will attach to outside the English oppoll Mall Gazette.

SHINEFF TRIALS.

Sent to Prison For Year-Another Acquitted. , Russia, Feb. 23 .- At the re-

co-day of the second trial of nnected with the massacre an and Rotar, accused of murm Koman, Rotar was act the former was condemned imprisonment. The damage smissed. HE LIVER GETS TORPID

a mild stimulant like Dr. ch cure inactive liver, relieve. and sick headache at once. Dr. Hamilton's Pills. Price

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VOL. 34.

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDA), MARCH 1, 1904

JAPANESE CLAIM HARBOR IS BLOCKED

Official Announcement That They Were Successful in Sinking Hulks at the Entrance to Port Arthur.

tch from Tokio, dated February

boats, were run into the entrance of Port Arthur for the purpose of blockig the mouth of the harbor.

"Although there is no report regarding our fleet direct from Admiral Togo, no

London, Feb. 26 .- The Tientsin correshave burned a large village near the Sungari river and massacred the inhabitants, including the women, in revenge

n preserving secrecy regarding all the operations of war, and declare this conspiracy of silence is not only confined to government and service circles, but that

Russian forces were concentrating at

No further news of an attack at Port Arthur after the engagement in which the Japanese attempted to block the harbor entrance, has reached London. English newspapers in discussing Viceroy Alexieff's reports incline to the belief that Admiral Togo succeeded in. vensky. making the channel impassable for large battleships, even if it is still free to was devoted to an attempt to sink further obstacles to navigation,

the crews of the vessels forming part of

Guarding Railway. Pekin, Feb. 25.-The director-general avalrymen and two guns have arrived at the west side of the Liao river. The ossacks of 30 men each, who occupy the war.

Reported Landing. Ying Kio, Feb. 25 .- Natives report that the Japanese have landed at Possiet Bay, and that they subsequently unertook operations against Hunchun and towards Kirin. These have received ary refugees who have arrived at

These people say the Russo-Chinese Cheng Tsi, where commercial interests ported advance has produced consternaamong the European civilians residing in the line of march. It is reported also that the Russian government bureau at Vladivostock has withwn to Khavarovsk.

Possiet Bay is in Russian Manchuria about 70 miles southwest of Vladi-Hunchun is on the left bank of the Tumen river and about 40 miles to the west of Possiet Bay. Kirin Regarding Fighting at Port Arthur Has s a big Manchurian town and lies about s inland, and to the west of Possiet Bay. Kwang Chen Tsi is about 80 miles west of Kirin. Khabarovsk is about 400 miles to the north of Vladi-

Japs Ready. Tokio, Feb. 25.—Three weeks ago it The correspondent of the Associated judgment of the government. He is a the Gulf of Suez. 25 miles some of Suez. 25 miles som

London, Feb. 26.—The Japanese legation to-day gave out the following official followed by a movement of the Russian forces towards the south, Ping-Yang being picked as their objective confirm this opinion and created the im-pression that there would be an early g the mouth of the harbor.

"The object of sinking these vessels sians ever intended to make this movement they have apparently been beaten

by the rapidly-moving Japanese.

The latter is said to have a large no enough force to check the Russians, its thus ensuring the possession of Korea, as in soon as they are capable of making ag- o'clock,

gressive northern movement.

The small bodies of mounted Ruspondent of the Standard sends in a report sians, who were scouting south of the from a native source that the Russians Yalu, river, withdrew to the northward. Storms are interfering with naval operations. The Yellow Sea is being war correspondents and Europeans in general are commenting in amazement upon the success of the Japanese officials upon the success of the Japanese officials will suffer during the next 60 days.

Thursday's Attack. St. Petersburg, Feb. 25.-Following government and service circles, but that the dispatch of Major-General Pflug sayite extends to every section of the community. It is undoubtedly in pursuance ing the Japanese had again attacked Port Arthur on Thursday morning and had in a report to the Czar. The fact that who was address is not stated, asserting the published, and none are expected in a papeness have renewed the attack is interpreted here to mean that twelve armored Japanese ships are designs.

In the meantime, if the report of a large respect to the Czar. The fact that the fact that twelve armored Japaneses ships are now in Jack undergoing repairs for the determined to belittle or destroy the large respectively. give themselves freedom for land manand native statements, should prove correct, a most important and prove correct and and native statements, should be rect, a most important new development in the Japanese operations will have been well informed military men, the Russian well information received by According to information received by revealed, as it points to an attack on Vladivostock.

A report that the railroad has been cut between Harbin and Vladivostock with these very possibly be connected with these may possibly be connected with these operations, but until more reliable information is forthcoming, this report must be received with reserve. It is albe received with reserve. It is al-ready reported from Tokio that certain including Cossack cavalry with 100 guns. It is now said that the Russian Baltic squadron, comprising eight battleship

two armored cruisers, three protected cruisers, two larger ships and 30 torped boats will leave for the Far East at the end of June. It is added that it will be commanded by Rear-Admiral Rojest London, Feb. 25 .- Asked in the House smaller craft, and especially that the reported second attack if it did occur

WAS SUCCESSFUL.

Reports Closing of Harbor.

Washington, Feb. 26.-The Japanese dated Tokio, to-day:

sunk, with success, in order to close it. "No official reports have as yet been received from the admiral commanding

the squadron, but there is no doubt that the squadron itself is all safe." OFFICIAL DISPATCH

Been Received at St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.-6 p. m.-A long official telegram, giving details of where they now meet the Russians. The the attack on Port Arthur of February first on the list in order of service is ck, with which port it is connected 25th, was received this afternoon, and is Field Marshal Yamagata, who is not

ANOTHER RUSSIAN REPORT. Fire From Japanese Fleet Was to Cover Retreat of Torpedo

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—The Russ his morning publishes the following

close our fleet concentrated within. transports, the enemy advanced four freighters, in ballast, at full speed to the gafeway, where it was intended to sink latter vessels, but the manoeuvre was observed on the batteship Retvizan, which was standing in the bay before the entrance. The Retvizan at once opened fire, and after it the batteries on "Early in the morning of February 24th four old vessels, escorted by some scouts in the vicinity of Wiju tended to took part."

> destroyed and their mission rendered unreport one Japanese torpedo boat was

was designed to blockade the port were

"The cannonade began before 3 o'clock the morning and continued until 7 answered our fire ineffectively. This evidently was done more to cover the re-

treat of their torpedo flotilla. "The enemy's squadron consisted of ten large vessels and seventeen torpede swept by gales, heavy snow falling and boat destroyers, which appeared yester-the weather is bitterly cold. The day about 9 o'clock in the morning forces of Japanese are going to the front splendidly equipped to withstand the cold, but despite their preparations both and the began to withstand the cold,

"The cruisers Novik, Askold and Bayan put to sea, and after an inconsiderable cross-fire returned unharmed."
The Birshewja Viedosmosti says a telegram has been received from Baron Guisburg, who has a contract for supbeen repulsed, Viceroy Alexieff has sent plying coal to the Russian navy, but in a report to the Czar. The fact that whose address is not stated, asserting

STOPPED BRITISH LINER.

Fired on by Russian Vessel and Afterwards Boarded by an Officer.

Aden, Arabia, Feb. 26.-A Russian torpedo boat destroyer stopped and boarded the British India Company's steamer Mombassa, in the Red Sea on February 22nd. The destroyer fired a gun which the Mombassa disregarded, but a second officer boarded the Mombassa and examined her papers, after which she was allowed to proceed.

BARON SUYEMATSU'S VIEWS. Japan Is Fighting for the Integrity of

Korea_and China. Seattle, Feb. 26.-Baron Suyematsu, of Japan, has arrived here on the Iyo Maru, being en route to London on an 325 Russian sailors rescued after the fight off Chemulpo, Premier Balfour said which we tried to avoid. But Japan will A special dispatch from Hongkong says the Japanese government had now inti- spend her last man and will spend her the British Admiralty officials are serving out clothing to the Russian sailors rescued at Chemulpo, Korea, and that it was willing the sailors should return to Russia on giving their part in the parole not to take further part in the the crews of the rescal form. The British government was now war. The British government was now tain our existence as a nation. We have frail physically, it is improbable that he

the British squadron have given half a day's pay to provide luxuries for the Pasis.

Replying to Earl Spencer, the leader falls into the hands of any other nation of the Liberal party in the House of it will be a death blow to the existence Lords this afternoon, the first lord of of our empire. We respect the integrity the Chinese railway reports that one the admiralty, Lord Selborne, categoriand sovereignty of Korea. We fought hundred Russian infantrymen and offi-cally denied the numerous stories re-cally denied the numerous stories recers, gun and large supply of ammunition at Rang Ho, and that 200 Russian cavalrymen and two cuns have arrived at feared there was some influence at ciple, and more, for the integrity Lui-Li-Chang. These towns are both on work endeavoring to misrepresent the China as well. If Manchuria falls to attitude of this country and to show Russia, the question of the existence of director-general reports the Manchurian railway is guarded by detachments of ing the strict neutrality in regard to Russia would take Korea, and that would cossee of 20 men each who account be a constant menace to our country.

ATTITUDE UNCHANGED.

Japanese Minister For Foreign Affairs Japanese-Korean Treaty Does Not Alter

minister has received the following from the Japanese minister for foreign affairs, lished in a London paper that Korea, ated Tokio, to-day:

"Before dawn on the 24th inst., four the Japanese-Korean treaty, France is cheng Tsi, where commercial interests boats, proceeded to the mouth of the literation does not warrant such a conboats, proceeded to the mouth of the harbor of Port Arthur, where they were situation does not warrant such a construct with success in order to close it. The officers and crews of the vessels re- does not make the slightest change in the position of France.

> MARSHAL YAMAGATA. The Eminent Services of Japan's Great General.

The generals who are leading the Japanese armies against Russia are men who have proved their skill and efficiency. They have seen actual service and have fought over the very gro

Japanese ships and the Russian squad-ron and forts, which continued for three lowing year he visited Russia and France, studying military subjects. In war-a position which in Japan is always held by a general officer of the

army. In the following year he was made lieutenant-general, and two years later secretary of war. The next year saw Japan in the throes of a fierce civil war. The rebellion was led by her greatest soldier, Field Marshal Saigo who had with him some 50,000 of her best trained men. The

"On the night of February 24th the Japanese attempted to blockade the exit from Port Arthur bay in order to encommand, but as Chief of Staff Yama-gata was the real general-in-chief, and "Under a convoy of torpedo boats and led the forces which crushed the rebellion. Siago having been slain, Yamathe empire, and was promoted to the full

> Being a man of great mental ability. indless energy and strong personality, he soon became almost as prominent in the political world as in the military, and shared with Marquis Ito the position of greatest influence with the Emperor. He was several times prime minister, and when not in that position always never ceased his active share in the de-

> elopment of the army. When war started with China in 1894 Yamagata was immediately given command of the first army that invaded Manchuria. The rigors of a Manchuria1 winter speedily reduced Yamagata to such a condition that the Emperor, fearful of losing altogether the services of his ablest officer, called him back to Tokio to act as his chief military ad-

> After the war Yamagata was made a Marquis and the new military rank of Field Marshal was established, to which he was promoted. The active interfer-



MARSHAL YAMAGATA.

ence of Russia, backed by France and Germany, which deprived Japan of the fruits of her victory, led the government to seek some understanding that would preserve the independence of Korea. Yawagata was appointed special ambassador for this purpose and proceeded to St. Petersburg, where he effected the treaty which was the basis of Japan's latest demands upon Russia. Not trusting altogether to this, Japan proceeded to double her army and greatly increase to the rank of Field Marshal in the army and an equal rank in the navy and organized into a supreme council of war. Of this Yamagata was made chief, a position which he still holds. Considering the season of the year and the fact that he is over sixty-five years old and rather will take the field in person, but in any case he will occupy much the same place Franco-Prussian conflict.

JAPAN'S WAR CHEST. Everyone Is Contributing to the Fund to Carry on Struggle With

New York, Feb. 26.—Japan, according to a cable to the World from Tokio, is already taking precautions to insure the strength of their war chest in the event of war being prolonged. The far-sighted financial policy is to be seen in the anouncement that negotiations are to be Two Japanese cruisers advanced toward

allels in history. To the national war fund nearly everyone contributes, be the gold and jewelery, which they have been Retvizan and the fort batteries opened accumulating through centuries, and fire on them. Battery No. 18 reports which were sacredly guarded by their having sunk one of the enemy's torpedo owners for use in times of national boats. stress and strife. It is impossible to tell "At the worth of these treasures. Probably their value exceeds \$500,000,000. Every woman is sacrificing her jewelry and other costly adornment to swell the na-

to \$5,000,000,000 without borrowing.

RUSSIAN SOUADRON. Vessels Which Were Recently at Jibutil

Now Anchored Near Suez.

entered the canal bound north, has sailed south again to rejoin the squadron. STATES AND RUSSIA.

Petersburg Paper Says Washington Government, Without Reason, Has Been Unfriendly.

Vremya this morning publishes a long leading article regarding the relations manifestations against the latter in the 'At this time four of the enemy's United States, the Novoe Vremya argues cruisers detached themselves from the

battleship for the Mikado.

The paper insists, however, that the heart, and that the people cannot really without reason the Washington government has been unfriendly to Russia.

Rut it is idle, the article goes on, to your imperial majesty. (Signed) Alexington government has been unfriendly to Russia.

"I respectfully report the above to your imperial majesty. (Signed) Alexing." suls to Manchuria. Unsatisfied with his success, Secretary of State Hay undertook to secure the neutrality and the integrity of China, Diplomatists, lexicographers and publicists being in doubt as

to what all this means, Secretary Hay kindly announced that he did not care to have his proposal defined in defail.

The article concludes: "The American government has taken a position which ill-accords with the former good relations with Russia, and we are convinced that the conduct of the United

ANOTHER ATTACK BY JAPANESE.

Washington, Feb. 26.-The Japanese Tokio, under to-day's date, giving an

The text of the cablegram is substantially as follows: "Vice-Admiral Kamura reports on the

26th of February the following: "'According to the report from the torpedo flotilla, which was sent for the steamers sent to block up the harbor at disappeared on the horizon in the even-Port Arthur, the Hokoku Maru, on the left side of the entrance of the harbor near the lighthouse, and the Bushin Maru outside of the entrance, were sunk urposely by the Japanese by explosion. The Tenshin Maru, the Buyo Maru and the Jinsen Maru sunk themselves on the east of Lao Te Shan. All of the crews of these steamers were picked up safely. Our destroyers and torpedo flotilla are

unharmed. "'On the night of the 24th our destroyers again went on a scouting cruise near Port Arthur and Dalny and Pigeon

bay.
"On the dawn of the 25th our main quadron approached Port Arthur and on barded the enemy's men-of-war and Novik, the Askold and the Bayan fleeing to the harbor. It was apparent that the blockading operation has not had much effect. Our squadron filed in towards the harbor and saw flames and smoke. We withdrew after fifteen minutes' shelling. While our cruisers were thus engaged in fighting we saw one of the enemy's torpedo boats destroyed. squadron received no damage. Admiral Togo is still on board."

Alexieff's Message. St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.-The following telegram from Viceroy Alexieff to the Czar is published here. It is dated Meb-

ruary 26th, and says: "On February 24th seventeen of the enemy's warships, twenty torpedo boats and steamers were cruising outside Port Arthur, keeping out of range. On the same day the Russian cruisers Bayan, Askold and Novik left the roadstead. opened simultaneously in London and the Novik, which returned to Port Ar-New York for loans. The Japanese people are ready to sacrifice their blood and treasure with an eagerness which finds but few par-

"On the night of February 25th our torpedo boats proceeded seaward. The amount large or small. Feudal famil- same night Japanese torpedo boats again ies are unearthing ancestral hoards of appeared in the roads and the battleship "At 9 o'clock in the morning a squad-

ron of fourteen vessels was sighted in the distance. "Maps of Port Arthur and Port have brought into power the partisans of the United States and Japan. Rusother costly adornment to swent the hatter than the control of the Measures are being discussed by which of February 24th. Conducting wires t is hoped that the fund will be raised and electric batteries were found on the Yang." vessels which caught fire. The wires were cut by Port Arthur miners. The

fire had been extinguished." Thursday's Attack. St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—A copy of of stone-ladem merchant steamers in the strating that the sinking of the steamers 25th, was received this afternoon, and is now in the hands of the military censor-now in the hands of the military censor-ship committee.

The correspondent of the Associated Trans. The correspondent of the Far mouth of the

is not stated; but it is supposed to be Admiral Togo for the attempted block-Mukden. The message is as follows: | ade. Four are reported to have been ress. The firing lasted for half an hour. Then the cruisers went into the harutes on one of our batteries and began existing between the United States and to leave. They stopped within sight of Russia. In condemning the unfriendly the fort but out of range of fire.

that distinction must be made between squadron and proceeded to Pigeon bay, the people and the government, and it where they quickly opened fire on our attributes the agitation in the press to a campaign engineered by the Jews who, they directed all cannonade against the it has been said, even talk of building a shore. The commandant consequently sent troops to Pigeon bay. The firing there lasted for thirty minutes, but no traditional friendship for Russia occupies a firm position in the American mind and ers then departed. Several measures have been taken to oppose a possible prefer the Japanese to the Russians, who never have harmed them. The Novoe verman on the other hand, contends that were but one man wounded at the bat-

Further Details.

London, Feb. 26.-A dispatch from a news agency from St. Petersburg says the official report of Major-General Pflung, chief of staff of Viceroy Alexieff, on the details of Port Arthur during the morning of February 25th is as follows: "The enemy's fleet of sixteen warships approached from the Dalny side towards the harbor of Port Arthur shortly after

midnight of the 25th inst., and at once of British, Japanese and American subopened fire upon our cruisers standing outside the roadstead, namely, the Asvinced that the conduct of the United States gunboat Vicksburg in refusing to protect and receive drowning Russians will not meet with wide sympathy in America."

outside the roadstead, namely, the Askold, Bayan and Novik, and also against the land forts, the bombardment lasting half an hour. At the conclusion the cruisers retired into the harbor. The cruisers retired into the harbor. The cruisers retired to the product of the United States gunboat Vicksburg in refusing to the roadstead, namely, the Askold, Bayan and Novik, and also against the land forts, the bombardment lasting half an hour. At the conclusion the cruisers retired into the harbor. The cruisers retired to the larbor and the product of the United States gunboat Vicksburg in refusing to the roadstead, namely, the Askold, Bayan and Novik, and also against the land forts, the bombardment lasting half an hour. At the conclusion the cruisers retired into the harbor. The cruisers retired to the product of the United States gunboat Vicksburg in refusing to the roadstead, namely, the Askold, Bayan and Novik, and also against the land forts, the bombardment lasting half an hour. At the conclusion the cruisers retired into the harbor. The cruisers retired into the harbor are conclusion that the product of enemy then bombarded our land battery sign an agreement to leave within a for some minutes. Then the enemy also given time.

cruisers separated from the enemy's English refugee says there are 300 main squadron and went into Golubin's Japanese women at Port Arthur who account of the ineffectual attempt made by the Japanese to blockade the mouth of the harbor at Port Arthur, and also a brief account of the attack by the Japanese on Port Arthur yesterday morning. As a result of the attack, the cablegram says, one of the Russian torpedo boats was destroyed.

In an aquacron and went into Golubin's Japanese women at Port Arthur who are unable to take a sceamer, and were sent north again last Sunday. These women cannot be accounted for, although the form of the forts sent troops to this point. No landing took place. The bombardment there iasted twenty-two minutes, at the expiration of which time the form of the form ed twenty-two minutes, at the expira-tion of which time the Japanese cruis-

"The officer commanding at Vladivostock reports that on February 24th, powers will interfere to secure the early in the morning, ten of the enemy's purpose of rescuing the crews of the ships were seen south of the island. They

ing.

The Landing of Troops.

and other dispatches say that there has open boat early to-day. They refused to been a succession of attacks or demontrations by the Japanese at Port Arthur, probably undertaken with the view | At the Japanese consulate it was given of covering or preparing for a Japanese landing somewhere and possibly with which was damaged in a fight off Port the hope of inflicting further damage on Arthur, and which sank trying to reach the Russian warships and increasing the this port. demoralization of the Russian land | The statement that they were members forces. It would seem apparent that of the crew of the merchant steamers little damage was inflicted on either sunk near the entrance of Port Arthur, part, although the dispatches leave the for the purpose of blocking it, and that exact situation at Port Arthur in some they were not picked up by the torpedo obscurity. The reported landing of Japan- boats in company was positively denied. ese at Possict bay near Vladivostock has They crossed the gulf in an open boat. not yet been confirmed. This movement, however, is considered not improbable. The Shanghai correspondent of the action off Port Arthur, Daily Telegraph has sent news of Japanese military operations. He asserts that Port Dalny is being evacuated by the

mined the breakwater, wharves and railroad sidings there in order to prevent the Japanese from making use of these Russians have only supplies for five block the entrance of the harbor of Port months at Port Arthur, and says a large Arthur reached Tokio last night (Friday). turned to Nagasaki, where they are Kamimiura, division commander under busily engaged in embarking more troops to be taken to the vicinity of Port Dalny.

Admiral Togo.

The report recited that from a certain Over forty transports have left Naga-saki since February 10th and a still larger embarkation has been proceeding from Ujima near Hiroshima on the In-

land sea. Ujina and not Kota, the correspondent concludes, will be the army and navy headquarters during the war. 1 a.m. at a place previously agreed upon, This correspondent has recently been formed. In any event it is taken for granted in London that Admiral Togo's The Bushi Maru was sunk outside, berecent operations have been devoted to recent operations have been devoted to facilitating the Japanese debarkation on the Line Trung Gulf or elsewhere.

Maru, the Buoy Maru and Jansen Maru the Liao Tung Gulf or elsewhere.

morning at Sukhena, twenty-five miles north of Ping Yang, Korea, but did not come in contact. The Russians are not moving southward of the Tumen river where the roads are extremely bad. "The changes in the Korean cabinet

Manned by voiunteers. London, Feb. 26.-Vice-Admiral Togo's attempt to bottle up the Russian in the inner harbor. The Askold and fleet at Port Arthur by sinking a fleet Bayan quickly followed,

san, about 150 miles north of Ping

"A squadron of the enemy's vessels sunk, but the fate of the fifth is unumbering — approached the fortress known here. It is presumed that it at about 11 o'clock this morning and withdrew with the other Japanese vesopened a bombardment on the cruisers sels. The five vessels were filled with Askold, Bayan and Novik, which were stone so as to make the obstruction per in the outer harbor, and also on the fort-manent, and were manned by volunteer manent, and were manned by volunteer merchant crews. It was impossible to select naval officers and sailors on account of their great rivalry to participate n the daring venture. The report that two of the torpodo

NO. 94.

The naval department has received a brief dispatch from the commander of one of the torpedo boat destroyers, sayost and that no damage was inflicted by the Russians. The five merchant vessels which were prepared for sinking were the Jinsen Maru, 7,331 tons; the Tientsin Maru, 2,942 tons; the Hokuda Maru, 2,776 tons; the Buyo Maru, 1,609 tons, and the Bunshik Maru, 1,399 tons.

Each carried five men, two steering and three firing and running the engines Koreans to Join Japs. Seoul, Feb. 26.—The Korean govern-ment has decided to order the Korean

troops to join the Japanese in the field. The port of Wiju was opened to foreign trade last night. The limitations to be placed on trade and other incidental matters will be placed later. This action necessitates a harbor and Yong-

Refugees Missing.

Inkow, Feb. 26.-An American refugee from Harbin says the authorities ther have discriminated in the expulsion jects. Persons of other nations have not

retreated, remaining out of the range of The authorities say that all the Japan-"In the meanwhile four Japanese on the last steamers from there, but an

ers retired. The loss on our side this not intend to move before the reorganday was one man wounded of the land ization of Manchurian regiments, which cannot be effected before two weeks or month. The expectation that the tection of Newchwang has been almost

abandoned. JAPS LOST GUNBOAT.

Chefoo, Feb. 27 .- Several Japanese of-London, Feb. 27.-Official Russian ficers and sailors landed here from an

out that they belonged to a gunboat

The consul claimed they had been expecting the arrival of survivors of the RUSSIAN DESTROYER SANK. Russians, who boast that they have Went Down in Pigeon Bay-Vice-

Admiral Kamimiura Sends Official Dispatch. Tokio, Feb. 27.-The official reports of This correspondent repeats that the the attempt made on Tuesday night to number of Japanese transports have re The report was written by Vice-Admiral

oint near Port Arthur on Tuesday evening, a number of merchant steamers, escorted by a torpedo flotilla, were dispatched for the purpose of closing the

entrance to the harbor. The torpedo flotilla rejoined the fleet and reported that the steamer Hobokua had been sunk at the foot of the light-"Russian and Japanese scouts," cables the Tokio correspondent of the Times, "sighted each other Thursday morning at Sakhona transfer of the correspondent of the tioned steamers were sunk by their own crews, who were all safety. torpedo flotilla was unharmed.

The torpedo flotila also reported that discovered the Russian cruisers Bayan and Novik together with a few destroyers in the inner harbor. After the flotilla rejoined the main fleet, it advanced slowly on Port Arthur.

The Russian cruisers Bayan, Askold and Novik were slowly moving about the harbor under cover of the batteries.

A bombardment began at long range, and at 11.45 a.m. all the ships and batteries were responding vigorously. Shortly after noon the Novik retro

Five ships were prepared by Vice the heavy guns of the Japanese fleet