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TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1904.

\$2.00 PER YEAR TO OTHER COUNTRIES, POSTAGE PREPAID,
PAYABLE INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

NO. 90.

SHIPS DETAINED BY RUSSIANS

A British Steam Collier Among Neutral Vessels Which Are Not Allowed to Leave Port Arthur.

London, Feb. 12.—In a dispatch from Nagasaki, February 10th, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "There has been a renewed attack on Port Arthur. The Japanese captured seven Russian ships and chased others. There have been disturbances at Port Arthur in which a number of Japanese civilians were killed or imprisoned. A Chinese mob has without asking permission crossed New Chang."

In a dispatch from Shanghai, dated February 12th, 2 a.m., a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "The bombardment of Port Arthur continues. Three Russian cruisers have been sunk. The Russian bank building has been destroyed."

Jap Losses.

London, Feb. 11.—A dispatch to the Yasshi Zeitung from Yokohama says the greater number of the Russian warships at Port Arthur have already been disabled, and that several Japanese warships have been sent home for repairs. It was said at the foreign office here this evening that the assertion of the Nogei Yomya of St. Petersburg that the Japanese fleet had attacked Port Arthur was absolutely untrue. The British proclamation of neutrality is a lengthy document, in the usual lines and covers all the British dominions.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of Reuter's Telegraph Company cables that the naval headquarters staff there state their attack on Port Arthur is absolutely untrue. The British proclamation of neutrality is a lengthy document, in the usual lines and covers all the British dominions.

Judge of the present situation there, has given an interview to the Giornale d'Italia. He said: "It is reported that Port Arthur is provisioned for eighteen months and there are no civilians, but this is doubtful. I believe Port Arthur to be lost to the Russians, and that their fleet is destined to be gradually destroyed excepting the few ships taking refuge at Vladivostok."

"I believe Russia can bring together 150,000 men of land, and it would be difficult to increase this number, while Japan can concentrate 300,000 troops in Korea, where she would be supported by local sympathy."

Will Manchuria Be Invaded?

Vienna, Feb. 11.—Disquieting reports have been received here from Peking regarding the attitude of China in the Russo-Japanese conflict.

The Neues Wiener Tagblatt says it is believed in well-informed circles that the reported destruction of a railroad bridge in Manchuria is possibly the work of an advance party of "Boxers," who, it is understood, China is organizing for the invasion of Manchuria.

It is understood that the representatives of several powers at Peking have informed their governments of China's intention to send 200,000 Boxers to Manchuria.

At Port Said.

Port Said, Feb. 11.—The Russian

Far Reaching Effects of War Predicted on Russian Internal Affairs and on International Questions

Russian forces. The Japanese declare that the numbers of Russians are greatly exaggerated.

The plan of the Japanese appears to be to take the road which leads almost straight to Mukden. They profess to have no doubt that they will be able to drive back the Russian forces towards Harbin.

Baron Hayashi points out that the Mukden road, though nominally under Russian military control, will be subject to constant raids from Japanese bands, who will swoop down from the hills.

Proceeding diagonally, the Japanese intend to cut the line of communication between Port Arthur and the mainland of Manchuria, not only preventing reinforcements from reaching the Port Arthur garrison, but inflicting damage on the Manchurian railroad.

The view that the Japanese will in the meantime be able to occupy Port Arthur is chiefly based on the latest information, that the Russian guns cannot be brought to bear on any force landing at Pigeon Bay, which is on the western side of Port Arthur, and it is believed that the Japanese admiral will follow tactics almost exactly similar to those intended to be pursued at Santiago, the troops storming the batteries in the rear while the Japanese fleet lies waiting for the ships of Viceroy Alexeff, who, in the event of land attack being successful, must make a dash for liberty with his crippled fleet or fight where they are against practically hopeless odds.

In spite of the lack of news it is constantly held here that the Japanese land forces are actively engaged in a most important movement, which will come to a climax as swiftly as did the Japanese first naval attack.

M. Payloff, from Seoul, reported that he asked Mr. Allen, the United States minister to Korea, to convey the survivors of the Russian ships to Shanghai or Chefoo on board two American transports which were anchored off Chemulpo. The Japanese minister at Seoul was ultimately instructed to accept the French offer to take them to Shanghai on board the cruiser Pascal, on the condition that Russia engaged not to allow them to proceed northward from Shanghai during the war. The above is the first reference made in the Far Eastern dispatches to the loss of the Pangari. Apparently she was a Russian transport which has arrived off Chemulpo with the intention of landing troops there.

Referring in the House of Lords to the subject of Wei-Hai-Wei, Foreign Minister Lansdowne declared the report that Great Britain had given Wei-Hai-Wei to the Japanese was "a gross fabrication." He said: "The Japanese minister at Seoul was instructed to ascertain if any incident had occurred to give the slightest color to the report."

ON THE BEACH.

Russian Cruiser Pallada Still Ashore—Two Others Floated.

Chefoo, Feb. 11, 9 a.m.—The Japanese fleet has not been seen since noon on Tuesday.

The injured battleships Czarevitch and Retvian have been floated, but the cruiser Pallada is still on the beach.

RUSSIAN COURT DEPRESSED.

Siberian Railway Monopolized by Movement of Troops and War Munitions.

New York, Feb. 12.—The London Morning Post's St. Petersburg dispatches state that the Russian court is much depressed, especially the Emperor, says a dispatch to the World. The dull tone of the Imperial proclamation is generally noticed, and it is attributed to His Majesty's dislike of a feeling of unpreparedness and fear of internal troubles.

Notice has been given that emigration eastward is suspended. In fact the Siberian railroad is monopolized by the transportation of troops and war munitions, to the complete exclusion of commercial traffic.

RUSSIAN RED CROSS

Asked to Make Provisions to Attend the Wounded.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 12.—The Dowager Empress has issued a request to the red cross of Russia directing it to make provision to allay the sufferings of the wounded in the war with Japan.

THE BALIUC FLEET.

Nothing Known at Berlin Regarding Impending Passage Through Kaiser Wilhelm's Canal.

Berlin, Feb. 12.—It is officially announced here that nothing is known of the alleged passage of impending passages of the Russian Baltic fleet through the Kaiser Wilhelm's (Baltic North sea) canal.

LOCAL FIRM AFFECTED.

Brackman-Ker Unloading Contraband War From the Empress.

Vancouver, Feb. 12.—Five hundred tons of barley, being sent by Brackman & Ker to Japan, was being shipped aboard the Empress this morning when orders came from Montreal, which resulted in the removal of the grain. The orders were the result of information from the British war office that no contraband of war, which includes food stuffs, etc., may be shipped on naval reserve vessels as the Empress liners are. There are thousands of tons of flour and other grain here which will have to go either aboard the Tartar or Athenian or in chartered ships, taking chances getting caught by the Russians.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Tokio, Feb. 12.—Vice-Admiral Togo's official report of the work of the Japanese fleet at Port Arthur reached Tokio late this afternoon. The report was written at sea February 10th, at a point undisclosed by the navy department. The report briefly and modestly recounts the Japanese victory. Vice-Admiral Togo left the battle ground not knowing the full extent of the damage his torpedoes and shells had inflicted, but as was evidently confident that the Russians had suffered heavily.

A translation of Vice-Admiral Togo's report follows:

"After the combined fleet left Sahebo on February 6th, everything went as planned. At midnight, February 8th, our advance squadron attacked the enemy at Port Arthur. At the time the enemy's advance squadron was for the most part outside of Port Arthur. Of the advance squadron at least the battleship Poltava, the cruiser Askold and two others appeared to have been struck by."

"On February 9th, at noon, our fleet advanced in the offing of Port Arthur bay and attacked the rest of the enemy's ships for about forty minutes. The result of our attack was the destruction of the enemy's fleet. It is believed considerable damage was inflicted on the enemy, and I believe they were greatly demoralized. They stopped fighting about 10 o'clock. It appeared to retreat into the harbor. In this action the damage to our fleet was very slight and our fighting strength is not in the least decreased. The number of killed and wounded was 52 of our crew were killed and 54 wounded.

"A report of the engagement at Chemulpo has probably been sent you already by Admiral Urusi. Our advance squadron bore the brunt of the enemy's fire, and after the attack for the most part rejoined the main fleet. The imperial princes on board the ships are unharmed.

"The conduct of all our officers during the action was cool, not unlike that during the ordinary manoeuvres. Since the fight their spirits have been high, but their conduct was very calm during the battle. This morning, owing to a heavy snow which there has been no communication between the ships and no detailed report has been received from each vessel, so I report merely the above facts. (Signed) Togo."

SCAMERS SHELLS.

London, Feb. 13.—Complete silence has fallen over the Far East. Not a word of news is to be had here, except the report given out at the Japanese legation of the sinking of the two Japanese merchant vessels by four Russian warships, and the report from Viceroy Alexeff of the blowing-up of the Russian torpedo transport Yessieich. This long silence has given rise to the belief that important events are transpiring. The Daily Mail learns the Japanese will bring into use an explosive which it is alleged to be more powerful than any hitherto discovered.

The correspondent of the Times at Wei-Hai-Wei, in a dispatch dated February 11th, says that the steamer Nu Ping, which is taking Chinese refugees to Shanghai, has brought the following account of the Port Arthur engagement:

navy to carry on hostilities against her, in obedience to their duty, with all their strength, and we also command all our competent authorities to make every effort in pursuance of their duties to attain the national aim with all the means within the limits of the law of nations.

"We have always deemed it essential in international relations and have made it our constant aim to promote the peaceful progress of our empire in civilization, to strengthen our friendly ties with other states and to establish a state of things which would maintain enduring peace in the Far East, and assure the future security of our dominion without injury to the riches or interests of other powers. Our competent authorities have also performed their duties in obedience to our will. So that our relations with the Japanese navy would be quite ready against our expectation that we would have unhappily to begin hostilities against Russia."

"The integrity of Korea is a matter of the gravest concern to this Empire, not only because of our traditional relations with the country, but because the separate existence of Korea is essential to the safety of our realm. Nevertheless, Russia, in disregard of her solemn treaty pledges to China and her repeated assurances to other powers, is still in occupation of Manchuria, has consolidated and strengthened her hold on those provinces, and is bent upon their final annexation. And in spite of the repeated protests by Russia would render it impossible to maintain the integrity of China, and would, in addition, compel the abandonment of all hope of peace in the Far East, we were determined in those circumstances to settle the question by negotiations and to secure this by permanent peace. This object in view, our competent authorities, by our order, made proposals to Russia and to other powers were held during the last six months. Russia, however, never met with any proposal in a spirit of conciliation, but by constant delays put off a settlement of the serious questions, and by ostensibly advocating peace on one hand, while on the other extending her naval and military preparations, sought to accomplish her own selfish designs.

"We cannot in the least admit Russia had from the first any serious or genuine desire for peace. She rejected the proposals of our government. The safety of Korea was in danger and the interests of our Empire were menaced. The guarantees for the future, which we failed to secure by peaceful negotiations, can now only be obtained by an appeal to arms.

"It is our earnest wish that, by the loyalty and valor of our faithful subjects, and the aid of our permanent allies, the glory of our Empire preserved."

Tokio Celebrates.

Tokio, Feb. 11.—Tokio witnessed a smaller Mafeking celebration to-night. Thousands of students paraded the streets accompanied by many bands of music and carrying torches, flags, colored lanterns and transparencies emblazoned with war pictures. National airs were sung and cheers were continually given by the various processions. Surrounded the palace wall and visited the government offices.

The Russian legation overlooks a square where the thousands of people and soldiers gathered to witness the celebration of the Japanese victory, but the windows of the legation were darkened. The crowds are orderly and sober.

The most interesting feature was cheered wherever they appeared.

Repairing Russian Ships.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 12.—The czar to-day received a telegram from Viceroy Alexeff describing the damage done to the Russian warships during the bombardment by the Japanese fleet at Port Arthur. It says:

"The Czarevitch and Pallada were brought into the harbor Tuesday. The Retvian is making temporary repairs to a hole. Repairs to the battleships are so complicated that it is difficult to say when they will be ready."

"The Pallada and Novik will be docked in turn. All the other vessels injured during the bombardment are now being repaired and will be ready in three days. The wounded officers, Lieut. Colonel Zaitchoukoff and the artillery corps and Lieut. Petroff, are doing well. Four of the wounded have died. A majority of the injured belonged to the cruiser Pallada, and their injuries are due to gases from the explosion of a mine torpedo. A careful search by cruisers and torpedo boats day and night have not revealed the presence of the enemy."

It is officially announced that no news has been received here of the landing of Japanese or the blowing up of a bridge on the Manchuria railroad.

Students informed and bareheaded the Russian paraded in front of the Kasca cathedral and went to the Winter palace. They were followed by several thousand persons singing the National Anthem.

The assistant chief of police thanked the students for their evidence of patriotism, but he requested them to no longer disturb the czar. The people returned singing to the cathedral.

Italian's View.

Rome, Feb. 11.—Admiral Candiani, who commanded the Italian squadron in the East during the China-Japanese war and who is considered a most competent

seaport on the Gulf of Finland. Four companies of soldiers are said to have been dispatched to suppress the rioting. The distances are believed to be connected with labor troubles.

The general staff announces the receipt of a telegram from the Russian minister resident in China saying that the cable from Vladivostok to Nagasaki, the telegraph line from Seoul to Masampo, and the telegraph line from Seoul to Wonsan are broken.

The bitterness against Great Britain is assuming almost alarming proportions. The supposition that Great Britain evacuated Wei-Hai-Wei to give Japan a base, has called out the deepest indignation, which has been still further inflamed by the publication of a "blue



CHEMULPO HARBOR
It is Believed the War Will Be Over by Midsummer.

book" on Tibet, containing the offensive language of Lord Lansdowne.

The first authentic news of the fighting at Chemulpo has been printed here vaguely and without details. The admiralty has issued specific orders that no telegrams from the Far East, either for private persons, newspapers or news agencies will be transmitted. The admiralty will give out official reports.

Admiral Skryloff, commander of the Russian Black Sea fleet, has left quietly for the Far East to take command of the Russian fleet there.

Japs Near Seoul.

Paris, Feb. 11.—The foreign office received a dispatch this morning dated yesterday, reporting that five thousand Japanese troops are now encamped near Seoul, Korea, some of which entered the town. It is added that quiet prevails there.

No mention is made in the dispatch of the presence of the Korean Emperor at the French legation, where he has been reported to have sought refuge, and therefore the authorities place no credence in the report.

Regarding the announcement that the Russian sailors from the Variag and Korietz, sunk by the Japanese off Chemulpo, had sought refuge in the French cruiser Pascal, it is contended by the foreign office that the French commander offered them an asylum only in the interest of humanity, that no protest on the subject has been made by the Japanese government, and that the refugees will be sent to Russia. They will probably be required to give their parole not to serve against the Japanese.

A dispatch to the Petit Parisien from Tokio, says the Japanese squadron which engaged the Variag and Korietz at Chemulpo consisted of five vessels. The Japanese admiral has sent no information concerning the losses and injuries inflicted upon the Japanese. The correspondent says also that Great Britain has sent seventy men to Shan Hai Kwan to guard the railroad.

The Temps says it has received confirmation from official sources of the report from Port Arthur that the Japanese attempted to make a landing at the bay of Port Arthur, and were immediately repulsed.

The Temps says the following is the substance of Secretary Her's note to the powers on the subject of the neutrality and integrity of China: "Consult with the government to which you are accredited with the view of learning in order to avoid the possibility of outbreak of troubles in China and to limit the prejudice of war on neutral commerce. If it will not be proper to respect neutrality of the administrative entity of China." Mr. Her's phrase "administrative entity" is not clear to the officials here, but they say he does not seem to mean the integrity of China.

United States Neutral.

Washington, Feb. 11.—President Roosevelt signed the proclamation declaring the neutrality of the United States government in the Russo-Japanese war at 3:25 this afternoon.

Italian's View.

Rome, Feb. 11.—Admiral Candiani, who commanded the Italian squadron in the East during the China-Japanese war and who is considered a most competent

transport Sniolenak and one torpedo boat have entered the Suez canal.

Through the Canal.

Suez, Egypt, Feb. 11.—The Russian volunteer fleet steamer Czareta and a torpedo boat have arrived here.

London, Feb. 12.—6:30 p. m.—The British government has information which leads it to believe that the Japanese are likely to be in possession of Port Arthur in a week from now.

In the best informed Japanese circles here it is privately thought that the war will be over by July.

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