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NO. 89.

JAPAN HAS DISABLED ELEVEN BATTLESHIPS

Marvellous Record to Credit of Mikado's Fleet in the First Twenty-Four Hours of the Fighting.

common talk of the naval officers was that the Japanese have shown that they can handle their ships better than the Russians.

AN UNFOUNDED STORY.

Report Was Published in St. Petersburg of the Loss of Eleven Japanese Ships.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—The announcement of the sinking of eleven Japanese ships and the fact that Port Arthur was in flames, was given out in St. Petersburg this afternoon as official, but investigation showed the report to be untrue. The only confirmed official communication is that from Admiral Alexieff, is-

Accordingly the Japanese government explained the foregoing views to the Russian government, and at the same time it introduced other necessary amendments in the Russian counter-proposals. They further proposed, with regard to the neutral zone, that if one was to be created, it should be established on both sides of the boundary line between Manchuria and Korea, with an equal width, say of fifty kilometers.

After repeated discussions at Tokio the Japanese government finally presented to the Russian government its definite amendment on 30th of October. The Japanese government frequently gave its reply, but this was again delayed and only delivered on the 11th of December. In that reply Russia suppressed the clauses relating to Manchuria, so as to make the proposed convention apply entirely to Korea and maintained its original demand in regard to the non-employment of Korea territory for strategic purposes, as well as a neutral zone. But the exclusion of Manchuria from the proposed convention being contrary to the original object of the negotiations, which were to remove the cause of conflict between the two countries by a friendly arrangement of their interests both in Manchuria and Korea, the Japanese government reconsidered the question and again proposed the removal of the

Tokio Special Reports Important Capture by the Japs of Transports and Troops Off Korean Coast.

Russia would be of impracticable value so long as it was accompanied by a definite stipulation regarding the territorial intention in China and Manchuria, since treaty rights are only existing with sovereignty. Eventually absorption of Manchuria by Russia would annul once those rights and privileges acquired by the powers in Manchuria by virtue of treaties with China.

THE OTHER SIDE.

Russia Accuses of Increasing Her Demands and Making Preparations For War.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—A lengthy official communication issued today gives the Russian account of the negotiations which led to the rupture.

Last year, says the foreign office note, the Tokio cabinet, under the pretext of a friendly character, Japanese social circles and the local and foreign press attempted in every way to produce a warlike ferment among the Japanese and to drive the government into armed conflict with Russia. Under the influence thereof, the Tokio cabinet began to formulate greater demands in the negotiations, at the same time taking most extensive measures to make the country ready for war. All these circumstances could not, of course, disturb Russia's equality, but they induced her also to take military and naval measures, nevertheless, to preserve peace in the Far East.

Russia, so far as her incontestable rights and interests permitted, gave the necessary attention to the demands of the Tokio cabinet, and declared herself ready to recognize Japan's privileged commercial and economical position in the Korean peninsula, with the concession of the right to protect by military force in the event of disturbances in that country. At the same time, while rigorously observing the fundamental principles of her policy regarding Korea, whose independence and integrity were guaranteed by previous understandings with Japan and by treaties with other powers, Russia insisted on three points: 1. A mutual and unconditional guarantee of this principle. 2. On an undertaking to use no part of Korea for strategic purposes as the authorization of such action on the part of any foreign power was directly opposed to the principle of the independence of Korea. 3. In the preservation of the full free-

repeat the National Anthem thrice before the audience was satisfied.

THE PORT OF NEWCHWANG.

Powers Advised to Demand Its Surrender by Russia.

London, Feb. 9.—A despatch from Newchwang says: "Owing to the enormous trade interests involved, the powers should demand that Russia surrender the port of Newchwang and agree to the neutralization thereof."

JAPS GREATLY EXCITED.

Local Subjects of Mikado Much Delighted With Events So Far.

Local Japanese residents are keyed up to a pitch of excitement scarcely less than that which is galvanizing their local countrymen across the Pacific. When they heard this morning that hostilities had actually commenced there was a constant procession of little brown men to the Times office, where the startling news was bulletined. It was interesting to watch the expressions that flitted across their countenances as they read the bulletin announcing the disablement of three Russian ships off Port Arthur, but fell alarmingly when they read that "eleven Japanese ships and one Russian ship were destroyed." Quite naturally they unobtrusively branded this report as untrue, manufactured out of the whole cloth for Slav consumption. They were not disposed to believe that their vanquished navy had been placed hors de combat so early in the game.

Any apprehension that may have existed, however, was set at rest when they saw the bulletin containing the effect of Viceroy Alexieff's despatch to his Imperial master, and they went off with their heads in the air and an "I told you so" expression on their faces. Far from regretting that diplomatic relations between the two powers have been severed, the local subjects of the Mikado have viewed the trend of the affair with unforgotten delight. They have been anxious to see their country get a whack at Holy Russia.

In conversation with a Times reporter this afternoon a prominent Victoria Japanese merchant said that every Japanese was confident of the ability of the island kingdom to hold its own. They knew perfectly well that they were going up against a power that was familiar with the fighting qualities of the Cossacks, having been comrades-in-arms with them in the Boxer troubles in China. Having seen them fight, the Japanese are of the opinion that the Czar's soldiers were very much over-estimated. This same merchant said that all expected that the first objective of the Japanese attack would be Port Arthur, but no one expected that it would come so soon. Now that the trouble had started, however, they wanted to see it fought to a finish. Korea, he said, was full of the Mikado's soldiers. The sixth division, which had disappeared mysteriously from Japan some time ago, had gone to the Hermit Kingdom, and these, together with the steady stream which had been pouring into the country for some time past, would aggregate a formidable force.

Local Japanese reservists have not yet received word from the consular calling them home. They are just bubbling over with fight, like so much gun cotton ready to explode. Those who are not reservists and who can't fight intend showing their intense patriotism by monetary contributions to the cause. A meeting will be held either to-night or to-morrow, and will make arrangements for periodical contributions to the war fund.

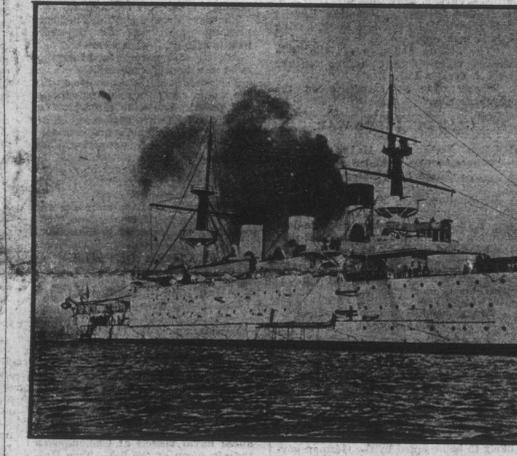
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Engagement at Port Arthur in Which the Land Batteries Also Participated.

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RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP POBIEIDA.

The Pobieda is one of the vessels now blockaded by the Japanese at Port Arthur. She is a ship of 12,674 tons, 210 ft. long, and 45 ft. beam. She has a speed of 18 knots. Her crew numbers 732 men.

ened either, announcing that Japanese torpedo boats had made a sudden attack on the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the battleships Retvizan and Carevitch and cruiser Pallada had been damaged.

JAPAN'S PURCHASES.

Has Bought Battleship, Cruiser and Gunboat From Chile, Which Sift For Far East Immediately.

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Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, informed the Associated Press to-day that he had received this morning a dispatch announcing the departure of the Japanese fleet for the Yellow Sea. While he had no news of the engagement at Port Arthur, the minister was aware that Japan intended throughout this war to employ torpedo boats to the fullest possible extent. He had not heard of the landing of Japanese troops in Korea, and scouted the idea of mediation, saying that all chance of mediation had ceased with the breaking off of negotiations.

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Statement Issued by Mikado's Government Setting Forth Japan's Claims and Russia's Attitude.

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It being indispensable to the welfare and safety of the Japanese to maintain the independence and territorial integrity of Korea and to safeguard paramount interests therein, the Japanese government finds it impossible to view with indifference any action endangering the position of Korea; whereas Russia, notwithstanding her solemn treaty with China and her repeated assurances to the powers, not only continues her occupation of Manchuria, but has taken aggressive measures in Korean territory. Should Manchuria be annexed to Russia, the independence of Korea would naturally be impossible. The Japanese government, therefore, being desirous of securing permanent peace for Asia by means of direct negotiation with Russia, with the view of arriving at a friendly adjustment of their mutual interests in both Manchuria and Korea, where their interests meet, communicated toward

restriction regarding the use of Korean territory, and the entire suppression of the neutral zone, on the ground that if Russia was opposed to the establishment of one in Manchuria it should not establish one in Korea.

The last reply of Russia was received at Tokio on the 6th of January. In this reply it is true, Russia proposed to agree to the following clause: "The recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as outside her sphere and interest."

It was the intention of the Japanese government, originally, that a conference should take place between the representatives of the Japanese and the Russian authorities so as to facilitate progress as much as possible in reaching a solution of the situation, but the Russian government absolutely refused to do so on the plea that the Czar planned a trip abroad, and for other reasons it was unavailingly decided to conduct the negotiations at Tokio. It was not until the third of October that the Russian government proposed counter-suggestions, and it then she declined to engage in respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and stipulated the maintenance of the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China, and requested that Japan declare Manchuria and its littoral as being entirely outside of her sphere and interest. She further put several restrictions upon Japan's freedom of action in Korea, for instance, while recognizing the Japanese right to dispatch troops when necessary for the protection of her interests in Korea, Russia refused to allow her to use any portion of Korean territory north of the 39th parallel.

The Japanese government failed utterly to see why Russia, who professed no intention of absorbing Manchuria, should be disinclined to insert in the contract clause by corresponding harmoniousness her own repeatedly declared principle respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China. Furthermore, this refusal on the part of the Russian government impressed the Japanese government all the more with the necessity for insertion of that clause.

Japan has important commercial interests in Manchuria and entertains no small hopes of their future development, and politically she was even greater interested there by reason of Manchuria's relations to Korea, so she could not possibly recognize Manchuria as being entirely outside her sphere of interest. These reasons decided Japan absolutely to reject the Russian proposals.



ON THE YALU RIVER.

Russian Troops and Chinese Workmen in the Concession Lensed From the Korean Government.

whilst Russia within limits of that province would not impede Japan or any other power in the enjoyment of rights and privileges acquired by them under the existing treaties with China exclusively of the establishment of a settlement.

But this was proposed to be agreed upon only upon conditions maintaining the clauses regarding a neutral zone in Korean territory and the non-employment of Korean territory for strategic purposes. The conditions were impossible to be Japan's acceptance, as had been already fully explained to them.

It should be further observed that no mention was made at all of the territorial integrity of China in Manchuria and it must be self-evident to everybody that the engagement now proposed by

Functionaries will attend a solemn Te Deum to pray for victory for Russian arms.

"I thank you sincerely and cordially for your loyal sentiments, with which I am convinced all true Russians are now imbued," is a message which the Czar telegraphed to the provincial council of the government of Yaroslavl (capital of Russia) in a project regarding the question of Manchuria.

Such demands on the part of the Japanese naturally were inadmissible, the rupture of relations with Japan, concerning in the first place China, but also all the powers, having commercial interests in China. The Imperial government, therefore, saw absolutely no reason to include in a special

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