

as may seem to be expedient to her. At the Japanese legation here the opinion is expressed that the Tokio government had no intention of remaining quiescent if Russia attempted to compel China to give assent to her men-of-war and authorized repairs at her ports which would enable them to resume belated operations. Should China consent to comply immediately with Japan's demand, the division of Japanese warships now in the vicinity of Shanghai will, the legation declares, be instructed to enter the port and capture the Askold and Grozovoi, as was done in the case of the Ryshietni. Japan has made no secret of her intention, but has not consulted the powers, believing that the matter is one which concerns herself alone, as Japan is prepared, the legation further asserts, to recognize Chinese neutrality only so long as it is respected by Russia.

With regard to the Ryshietni, Japan, it is asserted, is determined not to comply with the Chinese demand submitted in compliance with the Russian note that the vessel be returned to Chefoo. Japan insists that all work on the vessel at Chefoo has been a Russian base during the war, Chinese junks having been fitted out there and sent through the Japanese blockading vessels to the Ryshietni. No answer has yet been given by Japan to the Russian protest in the case of the Ryshietni, but when it is made, it will be communicated to all the powers.

RUSSIAN OUTPOSTS RETIRED BEFORE JAPS.

Mukden, Aug. 17.—The Japanese have occupied Tsin lin, on the Russian extreme left. A small force of Japanese infantry occupied Dapinjin pass on Aug. 15th. The Russian outposts retired.

DRAWING CLOSER AROUND THE FORTRESS.

Chefoo, Aug. 17.—7 p.m.—According to news received here today the Japanese line has been drawn still closer around the beleaguered Port Arthur. The right wing of the Japanese line has penetrated to the vicinity of Pigeon bay, while the centre has moved forward from Pa Ling Ching, which is south of Shushi Yen, and two miles north of the town.

Chinese are the authority for the above outline of the new Japanese positions. Passengers on board the steamer Decima, which anchored off Port Arthur last night, witnessed a bombardment from Pigeon bay. The Japanese shells were visible during their whole course. They circled comet-like to the town and their explosions were marked by great splashes of fire which shot up into the sky.

The bombardment from this and other points began at midnight, and lasted until morning. The Russians did not reply to the Japanese fire.

Major Seaman, formerly a surgeon in the American army, was a spectator of the most brilliant and awe-inspiring. The Decima weighed anchor from Port Arthur at 5 o'clock this morning and sailed at a distance out she saw five Japanese warships guarding the harbor. Everything is quiet at Tsinlin.

RUSSIAN STEAMER FLOATED BY THE JAPS.

Nagasaki, Aug. 17.—This Japanese steamer Oura, which has arrived here, reports that she left Chemulpo with the Russian steamer Sungari in tow, but owing to bad weather the Sungari was compelled to anchor. The Sungari was wrecked at Chemulpo by the Russians at the beginning of hostilities to prevent her capture by the Japanese. She was afterwards raised here. The Oura will shortly return to the Sungari and resume towing her to port, where she will undergo repairs.

STEAMER STOPPED BY RUSSIAN CRUISER.

Ajaccio, Corsica, Aug. 17.—The British steamer Scotia, coal laden from the Tyne, arrived here today, and reported that she was stopped on August 12th by two bank shots, followed by a shell from the Russian cruiser Ural, formerly the German steamer Kaiserin Maria Theresia. After an examination of Sevcian's papers she was allowed to proceed.

UNEASY REGARDING ROSSIA AND GROMOBOL.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—The admiral is beginning to manifest nervousness at the fate of the Rossia and Gromobol of the Vladivostok squadron, which have not been reported since the engagement of Sunday last with the Japanese squadron in the straits of Korea.

RUSSIAN CRUISERS AT VLADIVOSTOK.

London, Aug. 17.—A dispatch to the Central News from Vladivostok, dated August 17th, says the cruisers Rossia and Gromobol, of the Vladivostok squadron, have returned here.

ATTACKED BY TORPEDO BOATS.

London, Aug. 18.—Special dispatches from the east, war, printed in this morning's London newspapers, contain accounts from both Russian and Japanese officers of the naval battle of Aug. 16th, but these accounts add little to the details already published. According to the story of Commander Ogura, of the Japanese battleship Mikasa, who arrived with the wounded at Sasebo, as given in the Daily Mail's Kobe correspondence, the Japanese flagship at noon, when 80 miles from Port Arthur, signalled "engage" at which there were loud cries of "banzai!"

"We got the range exactly," says Commander Ogura, "and almost all our shells told, while our own enemy fell around us, and shells fell thick and fast until the sea was fairly boiling.

Vice-Admiral Togo remained on the bridge of the Mikasa throughout the battle."

Commander Ogura's account agrees remarkably with the story told by an officer of the Russian battleship Cesarevitch, sent by the Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Tsinlin, which is that the Russian fleet opened the fighting, but that the Russians being the second attack at 2 o'clock. The officers says that the 12-inch shells struck a great fire broke out on the battleship Peresviet. The enemy's guns worked splendidly, and there was no leakage. The Krupp 9-inch armor plates resisted the projectiles excellently, and the 12-inch shells recoiled from it. Our sailors especially faced the storm of red-hot iron. The captain says that the Cesarevitch presented a ghastly spectacle of wreckage, but that her guns suffered no damage.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Morning Post says it is reported that a Japanese squadron is coming there in consequence of the failure, as yet, to comply with the Japanese demand that the Russian cruiser Askold and the torpedo boat destroyer Grozovoi be disarmed or quit the port. Commenting on the foregoing, the Morning Post says that the Japanese are not in the mood to stand much nonsense, and points out that there are now 18 foreign men-of-war at Shanghai, eight of which are the powers whose advice in the case of the Ryshietni it is understood she has declined to follow.

RUSSIAN COMMANDER REFUSES TO SURRENDER.

London, Aug. 18.—A dispatch to the Japanese legation from Tokyo announces that a reply was received from the commander of the Russian forces at Port Arthur yesterday refusing either to surrender to the besieging force of the Japanese or to send out the non-combatants.

STOESSEL'S REPLY CREATED NO SURPRISE.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 18.—The report that Gen. Stoessel, the Russian commander at Port Arthur, declined to capitulate in response to the Japanese ultimatum creates no surprise. The officer would have been amazed if he had yielded.

This morning, for the first time, the newspapers were allowed to print the fact that the cruiser Rurik had been sunk. The news was held back until the government had received official confirmation from Vladivostok.

The tone of the press comment is summed up by a line in the Russ: "The Rurik died a hero's death." That is the only consolation we have.

It is learned from official sources by the Associated Press that the cruisers Gromobol and Rossia have reached Vladivostok after the battle with Admiral Togo's squadron. The island, both ships were considerably damaged. The Rossia lost two officers killed.

There is no confirmation of the report that the cruisers Palada and Diadema reached Vladivostok, and the admiral had no news this morning bearing on the whereabouts of the other vessels of the fleet.

Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky, commander of the Baltic fleet, today announced his flag and staff appointments. Gape, Chapier de Colong, chief of staff. The demand for naval officers for duty at the naval colleges has been put on an active service, and the college has been closed.

The mobilization of the reserve troops in five of the seven districts in the province of St. Petersburg has been completed, and the mobilization of those of the Russian capital itself is expected to be announced in a few days. Probably thirty thousand men will be taken out of the population and called to the colors. Many factory and mill hands will be included, but the effect, industrially, will be lessened because most of the manufacturing were already running on short time.

JAPANESE WILL RESUME ASSAULT.

Tokio, Aug. 18.—Lieut. General Stoessel, in command at Port Arthur, has refused to surrender, and has declined the offer made by the Japanese of the removal of non-combatants there.

The reasons for this latter action are not given, but it is probable that the non-combatants are unwilling to accept a favor at the hands of the Japanese. They confess, however, that necessity for their removal exists.

JAPAN WILL NOT SURRENDER DESTROYER.

London, Aug. 18.—Japan has officially notified Great Britain that she does not propose to give up the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Ryshietni, captured in the harbor of Chefoo on August 12th.

EVERY OFFICER WAS KILLED OR WOUNDED.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 18.—6.05 p. m.—A later official dispatch from Vladivostok shows that every officer on the Rossia and Gromobol was either killed or wounded. Admiral Jessen narrowly escaped the fate of Admiral Witthof. He was standing on the bridge of the Rossia when it was wrecked by a shell.

The two Russian cruisers were literally riddled, their guns and engines being partially dismounted.

The escape of the Russian vessels from Admiral Kamimura's four armed cruisers is regarded as a wonderful piece of luck.

ain, as the ally of Japan, has advised her to apologize. It is believed that Japan realizes that this course will please the western power, but that she will not follow it because it would mean a loss of prestige in China where concession has always been translated to mean weakness.

MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 18.—The report that Japan has sent an ultimatum to China threatening to repeat the Ryshietni incident in the case of the cruiser Askold and torpedo boat destroyer at Shanghai, especially after it was understood, as cabled to the Associated Press this morning, that Russia had already agreed to the disarmament of the vessels, is regarded here more as a political than a military move, the purpose of which is to overawe the Peking government and to compel it to henceforth turn a deaf ear to Russia and to recognize Japan as the dominant power in the Far East, it being inconceivable that a western power would permit Japan to carry out her threat to engage in hostilities in the neutral waters of China.

The Russian authorities, who understand thoroughly the effect of display of force upon the Peking government, appreciate how greatly China has been impressed by the broken record of Japanese successes on sea and land, and are inclined to believe that the Japanese action is designed to compel China to ally itself against Russian demands in the Ryshietni affair to which China's first reply was unsatisfactory.

Should Russia then regard China as the ally of Japan the purpose of Great Britain and the other powers in seeking to limit the area of the war to prevent disorders in China, the Russian authorities, who understand thoroughly the effect of display of force upon the Peking government, appreciate how greatly China has been impressed by the broken record of Japanese successes on sea and land, and are inclined to believe that the Japanese action is designed to compel China to ally itself against Russian demands in the Ryshietni affair to which China's first reply was unsatisfactory.

THE RUSSIANS AND SHIPMENTS OF FOODSTUFFS.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 18.—4.55 p. m.—It becomes more and more probable that Russia will meet the views of Great Britain and the United States regarding foodstuffs bound to a belligerent unblock port and consigned to private firms of individuals when the ship's papers give no clue for suspicion that they be regarded as contraband. The subject is now under consideration.

The Emperor's government appears to be desirous of adjusting the question of the flour aboard the Arabia, confiscated by the Vladivostok prize court, but it is pointed out that the decision of the court is not final, and that the case should be appealed to the admiralty court.

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The spirit of the garrison continues to be excellent, and Lieut. General Stoessel is going everywhere encouraging the soldiers and instilling confidence in the mining operations and provisions supplied with ammunition and provisions.

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New York, Aug. 17.—The Japanese minister at Seoul has, according to a Times dispatch from Tokyo, advised the Korean government that the following essential reforms must be carried out: The functions of the imperial household and the executives must be differentiated.

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St. Petersburg, Aug. 18.—Referring to the issue of a new loan in the form of state notes, amounting to \$50,000,000, the realization of which is said to be assured, the Official Messenger points out that the official report issued May 13th showed that upwards of \$160,000,000 was available for military purposes at the beginning of the war. Up to August 16th the military expenditure had absorbed only \$128,700,000, and therefore the money obtained by the recent loan of \$100,000,000 taken up by France is not yet touched.

REVOLUTIONISTS IN PARAGUAY SHelled ASSASSINATED UNITI Non-Combatants Leave City.

Buenos Ayres, Aug. 18.—Dispatches received here today from Asuncion, Argentina, confirm the reports that Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, was bombarded yesterday by the insurgents. The steamers Saguay and Villa Bionfi red on the city for 20 minutes, after which the diplomatic corps intervened, and obtained an armistice of 24 hours to permit the non-combatants to leave Assucion.

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HON. R. PREFONTAINE VISITS VICTORIA

Interview With Federal Minister on Fishery Matters and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Construction.

(From Thursday's Daily.) Hon. Raymond Prefontaine, minister of marine and fisheries, and party arrived last evening about 8 o'clock on the departmental cruiser Kestrel. They were not expected until 10 o'clock, but the Kestrel beat the schedule by a wide margin, which enabled the minister to receive at the Driad a larger number of delegations and friends than would have been possible had the party arrived two hours later.

The minister was waited upon by representatives of the Liberal Association, the president and reception committee of the board of trade, and Mayor Barnard and others, who arranged the programme to be carried out during his stay here.

This morning Hon. Mr. Prefontaine and party boarded the Princess Victoria as the guests of the board of trade for an excursion down the Straits to various points of interest. This evening at 8.30 o'clock an address will be presented to the minister at the board of trade rooms. Tomorrow he will meet the Tourist Association and accompany them on a trip up the Arm, and to-morrow evening he will attend a gathering of Liberals in A. O. U. W. hall.

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NEWS OF DOMINION.

The C. P. R. Weekly Crop Report—Veterinary Surgeon Killed by Lightning.

Winnipeg, Aug. 18.—The weekly crop report of the C. P. R., issued to-day, still holds to the hopeful tone which has characterized it throughout the season. In this report the agents were asked to pay special attention to damages from rust or smut, which have been such a factor in grain reports from the Dakotas. There are few points where rust has been found at all, and at these the trouble is comparatively insignificant, and will hardly be a factor. Cutting has begun in nearly all parts of the province and the Territories, though it will not be general for at least another week. The percentage yield as estimated at the present time runs from 20 to 25 bushels to the acre with a good sample of grain.

Gagged by Burglars.

St. Thomas, Ont., Aug. 16.—Burglars secured entrance to the residence of City Assessor Frick early this morning, and gagged Miss Edna Frick and snatched the house. Two rings, a diamond and a pearl and fifty dollars in money were secured.

Toronto Strike.

Toronto, Aug. 16.—It is estimated that two million dollars worth of buildings is blocked by the builders' laborers' strike, inaugurated yesterday.

Club House Destroyed.

Toronto, Aug. 16.—Fire last night destroyed the Royal Canadian Yacht Club house on Centre Island. The club will rebuild at once.

Borden's Prediction.

St. John, N. B., Aug. 16.—On the way home to Halifax, R. L. Borden, leader of the opposition, said that the general elections would take place within the next three months.

Welcomed Home.

Halifax, Aug. 16.—R. L. Borden and party were welcomed home by thousands of citizens last night. The city was illuminated. It took the previous night two hours to traverse the route through the city to Mr. Borden's home.

Instantly Killed.

Tilsonburg, Ont., Aug. 16.—John M. Hagerman, veterinary surgeon, of Lyndoch, was killed by lightning on his father's farm. He leaves a widow and one child.

CHICAGO STRIKE.

Mayor Harrison Will Attempt to Settle Trouble—Numerous Assaults.

Chicago, Aug. 15.—Mayor Harrison will attempt to-morrow to settle the strike. He will meet to-morrow at 1 o'clock the representatives of the strikers and hear their side of the controversy. Later in the day he will have a meeting with representatives of the packers and listen to their statement, and he will then attempt to reconcile the differences. There were a number of conferences during the day, but none bore results.

It is asserted that the alleged secret meeting between the packers and the strikers was arranged for by W. E. Skinner, an assistant general manager of the Union Stock Yards & Transit Company. It is said that he went to President Donnelly of the Packers' Union, with a written proposition that the packers would take their old men back as rapidly as possible, and the question of wages should be left to arbitration. It is said that the President Donnelly said that if he would sign the proposition Mr. Skinner would undertake to see that it was signed by J. Armour.

Another matter which would receive his earnest consideration. This was the matter of the hydrographic survey. The Imperial government has been carrying on this important work on the Pacific, but as it had become more and more important and involved increasing expenditure, the Dominion government was asked to take it over. While here, he intended to inquire thoroughly into the subject.

Another matter which would receive his attention is that of aids to navigation. As the shipping developed in these waters more aid would be necessary, and the government would expend considerable money in installing these aids wherever required for the extension and protection of navigation.

The minister intends starting for the East on Monday. Owing to the uncertainty as to when Messrs. Hays and Wainwright will start for the coast, he will not wait for them. He will remain in Victoria until Saturday, when he will accompany Ralph Smith, M. P., to Lady-smith, Nanaimo and other island points. Hon. Mr. Prefontaine is accompanied by Col. Gourdeau, the deputy minister, Commodore Spain of the department, O. E. Talbot, M. P. for Bellechasse, and others. R. G. Macpherson, M. P. for Burrard, also came over with the party. They are all staying at the Driad.

ANOTHER COMBINE.

Coal Men and Smelting Interests Will Unite.

Berlin, Aug. 18.—A giant industrial combination, second only to that of the Krupp in Germany, will result from a meeting at Hanover of the directors of the Gelsenkirchen Coal Company, the Schalker Coal & Iron Company and the Aschen Smelting Company, at which it was decided to pool the interests of the three companies, the Gelsenkirchen Coal Company increasing its capital to \$31,575,000 and exchanging its shares for shares of the other companies.

FAMILY SAFE.

Dewey, N. Y., Aug. 18.—It develops that J. H. Paged, his wife and daughter, were not in their home on Bellevue avenue when it was burned to the ground on Tuesday night. When the family failed to appear after the fire it was feared that they had been cremated, but it was later learned that they were in Buffalo.

MAN AND WIFE IN DISTRESS.

Dr. Boehrer, of Buffalo, says: "My wife and I were both afflicted with distressing dyspepsia, but we have enjoyed freedom from this aggravating malady since the day we first used Dr. Agnew's Cathartic Powder. The action was instantaneous, and the most grateful relief within ten minutes after first application." 50 cents. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—153.

INJURIES SUSTAINED.

The steamer Ramona, which collided with the Tremont on a fog off Marrowstone point in a fast and smothered from forest fires, has been mishandled from the wreck by the millers. The damage to the Ramona amounts to \$2,000.

VICTORIA FIRM SECURED CONTRACT

FOR BUILDING OF A NEW STEEL TUGBOAT

Salmon Shipping Business to Europe Markets Will Likely Be Done Here—Notes.

The Victoria Machinery Depot has been awarded the contract for the construction of a new steel tug for the Dominion government. The tug is to cost \$30,000. She will be 85 feet between perpendiculars, 12 feet beam and 12 1/2 feet depth of hold. She will have 250 H. P. and a shaft of between ten and a half and eleven knots.

The tug is one of the craft for which the Dominion government had in mind some months ago. The local tenderers saw the contract, and it was awarded to the contractor, who had the tug built at once.

EXTENDING BUSINESS.

Robert W. Damsuir, of Victoria, in this city making preliminary arrangements with a view to the charter of an American bottom which will operate as a freighter between Seattle, Post-Intelligencer, Tacoma, and Puget Sound, principally Tacoma, says Monday.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer says that the number of vessels in the Puget Sound fleet of the concentrates from the Treadwell mine on the Douglas, Alaska, the Treadwell smelter, the purpose to extend their Alaskan marine freight handling traffic. To this end Mr. Damsuir has secured the week, dispatch an agent to New York with a view to securing a 3,000-ton eastern Alaska and Puget Sound, and the other carrying traffic in the Southeastern Alaska, and parties of the product of the mines of Prince Wales Island.

It is expected that in the near future, possibly before the close of the year, several of the mines, gold and copper, on Prince Wales Island, and a greater number of ships will be estimated, with shipping ore. In the nature of the Everett or Tacoma will handle product.

The invasion of the Damsuir of the Alaska freight carrying traffic probably arouse the American vessel active opposition, and it may lead to a resumption of the war. Formerly all of concentrate product of Treadwell shipped to the smelters in Lynn Bottoms, and the Treadwell stamp mill process is the result from the north in those vessels.

SECOND INQUIRY.