



VICE ADMIRAL TOGO



THE JAPANESE FLEET



ADMIRAL ROJESTVENSKY

WANTON DESTRUCTION OF STRUGGLING INDUSTRY

As Result of Recent "Freak" Legislation Western Fuel Company Decide to Close Down Mines Until Hawthornthwaite and Fellow Socialists Come to Their Senses and Amend Law

Nanaimo, May 28.—As a result of the decision of the mass meeting of underground employees of the Western Fuel Company in No. 1 mine on Saturday night, it was rumored on the street that the company would have a notice on the pithead tomorrow notifying the men to take their tools out as the mine would not open after Tuesday. Upon being interviewed tonight, Mr. Stockert confirmed this report, saying that the company had made every effort to adjust the difficulty, and as the miners had refused to agree to either proposal, the company had no recourse but to close the mine, according to President Howard's statement, which he gave out last week. This means that the mills will be drawn and the pumps taken out, the fan stopped and all underground work abandoned until the eight-hour law has either been repealed or amended.

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN SHANGHAI

All Foreign Warships in Port Clear for Action on Hearing of Battle.

St. Petersburg, May 28.—The St. Petersburg telegraph agency publishes the following from Shanghai, under date of May 28: "From all quarters telegrams are arriving here announcing that a naval battle is in progress between the Russian and Japanese fleets in the Korean straits. The tone of telegrams from Chefoo is favorable to the Russians. The telegrams from the Vladivostok squadron participated in the engagement. "An English firm in Shanghai has received a telegram from Tokyo to the effect that the Japanese have been victorious, but nobody here believes it. "There is the greatest excitement in Shanghai. All the warships in the harbor have cleared for action. "The cable to Woussung has been interrupted since yesterday, but the cause is unknown. "Numerous merchantmen have postponed their departure pending the receipt of further news."

Summary of News Relating To the Great Naval Battle

(By Associated Press.)

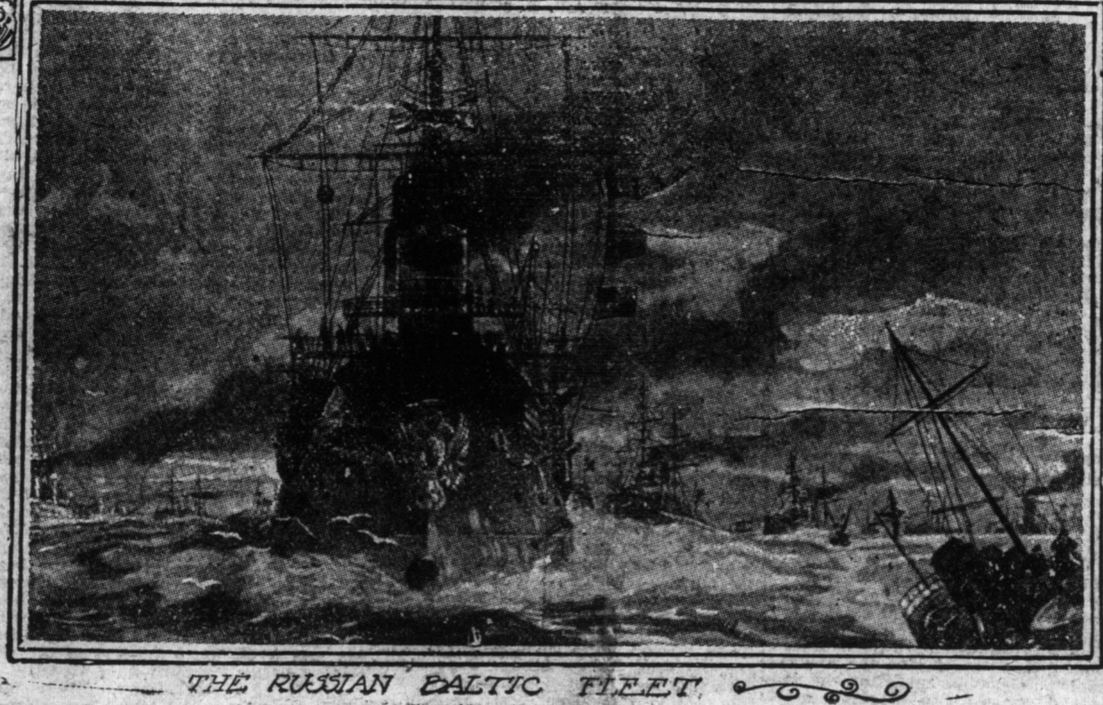
According to the latest information, the battle between the Russian naval forces and the Japanese fleet for the supremacy of the Oriental sea, on which hangs the outcome of the Far Eastern struggle, has begun, if it has not terminated decisively. All the despatches received by the Associated Press point to a Japanese victory, though it is not yet known whether the full forces of Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's fighting ships took part in the contest, which, according to the despatches, took place in the comparatively narrow waters of the Straits of Korea.

The first information came in a despatch from the American consul at Nagasaki to the state department at Washington, telling that the Japanese had sunk one Russian battleship, four other warships and a repair ship in the Korean straits, and this was followed by a despatch received by the state department, the date of which was not given, that the Japanese government had made the announcement that its fleet had engaged the Russians in the Korean straits on Sunday and had held them.

The state department also received information that the two vessels reported to have been sunk were the sister battleships Orel and Borodino, and three other ships were cruisers. From Tientsin, the German port on the Shantung peninsula, came a report that a running naval engagement took place near the island of Oki, in the sea of Japan, two hundred miles north of the straits of Korea, and that the whole Russian fleet did not participate, the slower vessels being sent around Japan.

Russian sources give no news of the battle, while the Japanese, as is customary, give no information as to the battle or its outcome.

Paris, May 29, 4:55 p. m.—Late editions of the morning papers here express the fear that the Russians have met defeat in the naval battle. The Matin, remarking that the despatches from Washington are far from reassuring, recalls the words of Vice Admiral Rojestvensky when he entered Far Eastern waters: "If I am victorious I shall inform you; if I am vanquished, Togo will inform you."



THE RUSSIAN BALTIC FLEET

RUSSIAN FLEET DISPERSED

LONDON, May 29.—The Tokio correspondent of the Daily Mail says that the Russian fleet has been dispersed; that several Russian ships have been disabled and that the remainder are in flight with Japs pursuing.

WASHINGTON MAY 28.—The American consul at Nagasaki cables the state department the Japanese have sunk one Russian battleship, four other warships and a repair ship in the straits of Korea. The following is the text of the Nagasaki despatch to the state department.

NAGASAKI May 28.—"Japanese sank the Russian battleship Borodino and four more warships and a repair ship;" the other despatch reads:

TOKIO May 27.—"The Japanese fleet engaged the the Baltic Squadron this afternoon in the straits of Tsushima, which is held."

ST. PETERSBURG, May 29, 2:15 a. m.—In this momentous hour the Emperor, the admiralty and the Russian public are awaiting breathlessly for the news to furnish authentic news of the fate of Vice Admiral Rojestvensky and his fleet in which the hopes of the Russians are centered. The official disposition is to construe Tokyo's silence favorably, but at the same time the strategic reason for such silence is recognized. The public, after the premature jubilation of Saturday, is inclined to reverse its attitude and become pessimistic.

The report sent to Washington by the American consul at Nagasaki of the sinking of five Russian warships, including a battleship and repair ship, was accepted as the most definite and the most authentic piece of news received up to midnight, and undoubtedly produced a bad impression. The fear was expressed that the battleship sunk might have been Rojestvensky's flagship, the Kniaz Souvaroff, on which the Japanese would undoubtedly concentrate their fire. The sinking of the repair ship Kamohatka, which was fitted with the most modern machinery, might, it was thought, prove later to be a more severe loss than that of a warship, but at the admiralty, where crowds congregated on Sunday afternoon and evening, the opinion was expressed that if Rojestvensky had cleared the gate to the Sea of Japan with no greater loss than that reported by the American consul, the passage was not deemed purchased.

Was Not Dearly Purchased, especially if later reports should prove that the Japanese losses were anything like equal proportions.

Probably no one in Russia displayed such intense anxiety as the Emperor. Early Sunday morning he summoned Grand Duke Alexis, his admiral, Admiral Avellan, head of the Russian admiralty department, and Admiral Wirenius, chief of the general staff of the navy to Tzarakoelo, and remain-

division of his fighting ships. Those of an optimistic mind think that Rojestvensky threw Togo off the scent and escaped him, as the French did Nelson on the way to Egypt, and encountered only torpedo boats in the straits. This opinion, however, is not generally held and the great majority think that Togo's ships were able to keep in touch and that the Japanese lay in wait for Rojestvensky in the narrow waters where a battle is reported to have taken place.

Admiralty Not Satisfied.

Nevertheless nobody believes that Togo offered open battle, the consensus of opinion being that the Japanese, favored by a stage of the moon, which was at three-quarters full, waited and delivered a series of torpedo attacks Saturday night, with such aid as their heavy ships could offer without running too much risk. Mines may have played an important part, and perhaps were responsible for a large share of the losses reported. At any rate the result is not fully satisfactory to the naval authorities.

It is possible that a running fight at the Vladivostok squadron, probably long range took place Sunday, from which better results are anticipated, as the naval authorities do not think that torpedoing could be renewed on Sunday in the open sea.

The cruisers Gromobol and Rossia, of the Vladivostok squadron, probably have sailed south to afford Rojestvensky any assistance in their power. If Rojestvensky got clear of the straits Sunday night, he should be close enough to Vladivostok to communicate.

THE BATTLE GROUND.

The Straits of Korea, where the naval engagement took place, is situated between the southern island of Japan and Korea. The island of Tsushima (Tsu Island) is almost midway between

(Continued on Page Five.)

"BATTLE OF THE MOST VIOLENT CHARACTER."

French Paper Describes Contest in Korea Straits and States That Both Sides Have Suffered Serious Losses.—Tokio Still Refuses to Give Up the News.—Intense Interest in Paris

St. Petersburg, May 28.—A despatch to a news agency from Chefoo says that private advices have been received by the Japanese consul there stating that the main portion of the Russian fleet engaged the Japanese squadron in the Straits of Korea last night.

Tokio, May 28, 7:45 p. m.—Absolutely no news concerning the operations of the Japanese and Russian fleets was obtainable here today. The newspapers are held under absolute leash and all telegrams and cables are closed to press despatches.

Washington, May 28.—From information which has been received in Washington today, it is believed that two of the Russian ships reported to have been sunk in the Korean straits by the Japanese are the Orel and her sister ship, the Borodino. They are battleships of 13,000 tons. Three other vessels reported sunk are believed to have been cruisers, the remaining one being a repair ship.

Chefoo, May 28.—(Noon.)—Private telegrams from Korea to the Japanese consul here state that a battle was progressing yesterday afternoon at a point near the Korean straits, between the main portion of the Russian squadron and the Japanese fleet, under command of Admiral Togo.

Telegrams almost identical with the above have been received and announced that a large portion of the Russian fleet was sighted approaching the Korean straits Saturday, headed for the channel between Tsu Island and the Japanese coast.

According to the best information received here recently, the main portion of Admiral Togo's fleet has been almost constantly at Masanoh, in the straits, from a reliable quarter received here, are to the effect that three Russian battleships, three armored cruisers and several colliers were off Shanghai Friday. It is believed that Vice Admiral Rojestvensky sent sufficient ships to the vicinity of Shanghai in order to induce the belief that his main fleet was there, while the major portion of it pushed on toward the Korean straits.

Several Russian colliers were at Shanghai at 9 o'clock Saturday night. Private telegrams received here from Shanghai say that as fast as the cargoes of the colliers are consumed the vessels were dismissed by Rojestvensky and returned to Europe.

Two Russian Battleships Sunk by the Japanese

Washington, May 28.—A despatch was received at the American state department today saying that the Japanese government had made the announcement that its fleet had engaged the Russians in the Straits of Korea Saturday and had held them. The reported sinking of the battleships Orel and Borodino is mentioned in a despatch received at the state department today from the consul at Nagasaki.

The belief in naval circles in Washington is that the Japanese resorted to a fire in their torpedo boats in their attacks on the vessels of Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet. The Japanese have a large number of torpedo boats in their fleet and they demonstrated their effectiveness in the operations around Port Arthur. Naval officials here tonight express the opinion that it was unlikely that such serious losses as those reported could have been inflicted by ordinary gun fire.

The Orel and Borodino, battleships reported sunk in the naval engagement in the Straits of Korea, were among the newest vessels of the fleet of Rojestvensky. The Borodino was four years old, being launched at Kronstadt in 1901, and the Orel was launched a year later, in 1902. The warships were alike in every particular, built after the same model. Each was heavily armored with plates almost a foot in thickness—11.6 inches to be exact. They were vessels of 13,516 tons displacement, each with a nominal speed of eighteen knots.

Sixteen large guns, besides the secondary and minor armament, were mounted on both the Orel and Borodino. Each of the battleships carried four 12-inch guns and twelve 6-inch guns. The loss of these two ships, which were of the best of the fleet, will leave the Russian admiral with but two battleships built since 1899, the flagship Kniaz Souvaroff and the Alexander III, both of which are of the same model and tonnage, and have similar armament to the Orel and Borodino.

Both of the lost battleships measured 397 feet by 76 feet, with a draught of 26 feet. They had a lofty upper deck fully 30 feet above the water line, extending from the bow to the quarter deck. The heavy guns were in pairs fore and aft. Forward was mounted a pair of 12.4-inch guns in a turret, which was protected by eleven inches of armor, and another pair of heavy guns of similar size, protected in the same manner as those forward, were mounted aft. There were 30 other guns of the intermediate battery, and each of the two vessels carried two submerged torpedo tubes and two above water.

A special feature of the battleships was their vertical longitudinal bulkheads, with 11-inch armor running throughout the whole length of the ship at a distance of nine or ten feet from the ship's sides, designed to localize the effect of a blow from a torpedo boat.