the fire broke out was 32 miles an hour.

Several times the grass in Finlayson's field caught fire, but through the energetic efforts of volunteer workers was extinguished. With a good start such a fire would have greatly endangered the Work estate.

In anticipation of a fight with the fire fiend a number of residents of Bay street climbed to the roofs of their dwellings and remained there during the worst of the blaze on Queen's avenue.

The man who turned off the electrical currents on the wires passing the burning districts did great work. He climbed up the poles in some instances in the face of a fierce heat and with cinders blowing right in his face.

Two or three telephone poles on Blanchard street were left last night in a very dangerous condition. The poles had burned almost through in one or two places, and seemed to depend on the wires above for support.

Some pathetic scenes were enacted when the fire spread beyond Douglas street. One woman was seen to emerge from her home with two little ones and pushing a baby carriage ahead, containing an infant.

Residents on Queen's avenue saved most of their furniture. Volunteer workers moved out the contents of the houses in a lively manner. The furniture was first placed on the street and by degrees was shifted away from the danger limit into the field beyond.

HELP FROM THE SERVICE.

Soldiers and Sailors Gave Splendid Assistance—Worked Heroically.

That Victoria owes much to the gallant soldiers and sailors on this station has often been demonstrated, but never more forcibly than at yesterday's fire. Their fire fighting detachments, under capable officers, made the run from Work Point and Esquimalt in record time, and when they reached the scene they worked with the greatest system and energy. By tearing down a house on Princess avenue they prevented the spread of the fire further in that direction, while they saved a large quantity of furniture. In the evening a squad of sixty kaki-clad Tommies, under Capt. Cockburn, arrived and held themselves ready for emergency. Undoubtedly there is at hand an efficient force which the citizens can confidently consider a valuable auxiliary to the fire department when fire threatens destruction.

QUESTION OF RELIEF.

Meeting of the City Council—Assistance Will be Given Where Required.

A special meeting of the city council was called this morning for the purpose of considering the question of giving relief to the fire sufferers. A committee was appointed to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances of the losses for the council's own benefit, and it was decided to give assistance in cases where such was found to be needed.

His Worship said to-day that he thought all the people who had been burned out had found houses in which to live, but he did not know how all were provided for otherwise. He has given orders for the high chimneys standing and likely to fall to be knocked down. The market building will be open to all who have no other place in which to store their household effects.

AID FOR SUFFERERS.

Many People in Need of Household Furniture and Contributions Will be Thankfully Received.

The Mayor and council are taking effective measures for the relief of the sufferers from the fire. It has also been decided to receive contributions that may be made by citizens. Many of those who were burned out are in need of household furniture, such as bedding, etc. Contributions of that character will be thankfully received at the market hall and duly acknowledged.

NOTES.

The Fire Performed Some Amazing Tricks—Made a Record Leap.

The fire broke all records for long jumping, at least in Victoria. From the Albion Iron Works it skipped an entire block, and after wiping out the Le Laire houses on Pembroke street, it leaped right into the residential blocks which suffered so severely. It left the Leland House and an adjoining building on Douglas street without a scorch, and in some cases picked out its victims with almost human discrimination.

Pieces of burning shingles were carried incredible distances. A gentleman who lives past the Willows, on the Cadboro Bay road, brought to the Times office this morning some charred particles of shingles. They had been borne between two and three miles.

The police force did their work well, but they had a large territory to watch. The opportunities for sneak thieves were very attractive, there being a considerable quantity of furniture in the fields and on the streets. A number of reports of missing articles have been received, but likely these will be recovered in the adjustment of personal effects.

Joseph Wachter, driver of the Victoria West wagon, was the victim of the most serious accident of the day, but fortunately was not as badly injured as first reported. His horses became unmanageable and he was thrown from his seat and badly shaken up. Dr. Gibbs attended to his injuries and he was removed home.

Camera experts were able to take a number of good pictures of the fire in its different phases. Maynard, the photographer, was on hand early and secured some excellent views, not only of the general scene, but of some individual houses while they were burning.

LOSS ADJUSTER AT WORK.

Number of Homes Destroyed on Which No Insurance Was Carried—List of Policies Held.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

This morning several drayloads of furniture and household effects generally, belonging to sufferers from the recent fire, were conveyed to a room in the market building, where they are awaiting identification. The police desire that those who have missed goods should call and identify their property as soon as possible. In the confusion a great deal was scattered in all directions, which makes the adjustment very difficult. The insurance people are now considering their losses, and to-day Mr. Gazzam, the adjustor, began a task which will keep him busy for a considerable time.

In connection with this fire there were a number of sad features. Some of the homes were uninsured and the blow will fall with grievous force on their owners. There were instances in which the owners had devoted much time and labor towards making their places comfortable and attractive only to see all their hopes and plans wrecked by the malevolent intervention of the destroying element. One lady, a widow, suffered the loss of a home that was not insured because of her financial inability.

This morning the fire department received a cheque for $25 from the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company in recognition of their splendid efforts to prevent the spread of the fire to the lumber yards. This, Chief Watson says, was the hardest struggle the firemen had. Had the lumber yard caught they would never have got the conflagration under control, and it is impossible to speculate where it would have ended. That was why the efforts of the brigade were chiefly concentrated on this part of the fire. Yesterday afternoon a stream was kept playing on some of the ruins, while the attention of the department was also devoted to extinguishing grass fires in the fields beyond Queen's avenue and a sidewalk blaze on Second street. The home of ex-Mayor McCandless was insured for $2,500, and the furniture and effects for $2,000. The house and improvements cost four thousand dollars. A considerable amount of the furniture was saved. Mrs. McCandless and her two daughters, who left recently for San Francisco, arrived just in time to be apprised by telegram that her home was destroyed. The house of George McCandless, which was erected at a cost of $2,400, was insured for fifteen hundred dollars.

Much sympathy is felt for Ald. Kinsman, whose row of five houses were totally destroyed. None of these was insured, and their destruction was therefore a complete loss. Ald. Kinsman has been ill for several days, but his many friends will be pleased to learn that his condition to-day was reported improved. Ald. Kinsman intends rebuilding at once, while owners of other places destroyed will build new residences as soon as the adjustment of losses is completed.

The statement appearing in the Colonist this morning to the effect that the members of the Victoria fire department took hose from the Victoria theatre during the big fire on Tuesday last and failed to return it in good order is denied. Frank Leroy, of the James Bay department, states that he took the hose in question. Being under the impression that more was needed he and T. Geiger visited the theatre and took therefrom five lengths of hose and one pipe. This, he wishes to have stated, was not required, and it was never taken from the wagon until it was returned to the Victoria theatre. It was delivered in the front lobby of the building where one of the theatre hands, he says, received it.

A gentleman who worked hard as a volunteer saving furniture and endeavoring to help in any manner possible those whose homes were burning, feeling it too hot decided to take off his coat. When the fire was nearly burned out he thought of his outer garment, but it was nowhere to be found. He would deemed it a great favor if the party who took it away would kindly return the contents of the pockets, which are principally private letters, pipe and tobacco. The name on all the letters reads as follows: "James Bell." Mr. Bell says they may keep the coat if it is any use to them.

Fireman Jos. Wachter, who was injured at the fire by being hurled from his seat, is progressing satisfactorily. A telegram was received from Ladysmith Eagles expressing sincere sympathy, and the hope that he would speedily recover. In reply Mr. Wachter wired that the first reports were exaggerated, and that his injuries only slightly affected him internally.

Following is a list of the insurance:

The Albion Iron Works was insured in Queen's for $32,000; Scottish Union, $14,000; British & Sun, $9,000; Royal, $9,000; Northern, $5,300; Hartford, $3,000, making a total of $73,000. What the actual loss is has not yet been ascertained, nor will it be known for a day or two.

In the Western Insurance Company were insured George McCandless, house $500, furniture $1,500; T. O. Turnbull, house, $1,000; George Caven, house, $1,000; Alex. Anderson, two houses, $1,300, and R. Seabrook, $600 on house.

In the Commercial Union Mrs. Milne had the furniture of her house, 17 Queen's avenue, insured for $2,000; the house, 48 Princess avenue, for $1,000, and No. 44 for $400; J. B. Burgess had $500 on his house, No. 55 Princess avenue; G. W. Fuggle, $1,000 on the furniture of No. 76 Princess avenue, and Edwin Dalley $700 on Nos. 58 and 60 Pembroke street.

In the Liverpool & London & Globe, Robert Hicks had two houses on Princess avenue insured for $800; A. G. McCandless, $2,500; William Scott, $2,000; Mrs. McKinnon, $800; Wm. Allen, $500; R. Sellick (partial loss), $700.

In the Aetna William Allen was insured for $1,500; Mrs. McKinnon, $1,200; J. Madden, $2,250; W. C. Wilson, $500 (on furniture); A. S. Ashwall and J. E. Kinsman, each $1,500 (on furniture).

In the Caledonian the estate of Noel Leclaire was insured for $650 for the house No. 56 Pembroke street, and $250 each for the four cabins at rear; and Mrs. Keith $500 on the house occupied by W. H. Finlayson, corner Blanchard street and Queen's avenue.

In the Phoenix of London, Mrs. Keith was insured for $2,000; Jeremiah Madden for $800 on house occupied by M. Hansen, 41 Princess avenue.

THE CONSUMPTIVE'S COUGH

Not only destroyes lung tissues, but it keeps him weak, and prevents his building up. Won't you give him Catarrhozone to breathe? It soothes inflamed lungs, promotes expectoration, prevents tickling in the throat, in a word prevents coughing. No greater boon can be given the consumptive than Catarrhozone. In a great many ways it benefits him, eases expectoration and cough, prevents reinfection and acts as a general disinfectant. Two sizes 25c. and $1.

REPORTED FAILURE OF RUSSIAN SORTIE

Attempt of the Fleet to Escape Frustrated by Togo--The Pobieda and Retvizan Were Damaged.

Japanese Protected Cruiser Kasagi Said to Have Been Sunk ---Besiegers Make Daily Assaults on Port Arthur ---Damage to City.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 8.—It is rumored in the city that Port Arthur has fallen, due to reports from Chefoo of another assault in which the fortress was taken by the combined land and sea forces, though the Japanese lost three warships, including the protected cruisers Chiyoda and Itsukushima.

There is no confirmation of these rumors.

HEARD THE SOUND OF HEAVY FIRING.

Chefoo, Aug. 8.—11 p. m.—The firing of heavy guns at intervals of one minute has been distinctly heard in the direction of Port Arthur since 10.30 p. m., the acoustic conditions of the atmosphere being unusually favorable.

REPORT OF SUICIDE OF GEN. STOSSEL.

London, Aug. 9.—According to the correspondent of the Morning Post at Shanghai, it is reported there that there are 10,000 sick and wounded persons at Port Arthur and that the Russians are negotiating with the Japanese to send the hospital s..p Mongolia away full of sick.

It is reported, the correspondent says, that Lieut.-Gen. Stoessel, in command of the military forces at Port Arthur, has committed suicide and that panic prevails at Port Arthur.

Marquis Oyama, commander-in-chief of the Japanese forces in Manchuria, has proceeded north and expects to attack Laio Yang August 20th.

STEAMER CALCHAS SENT TO VLADIVOSTOCK.

Vladivostock, Aug. 8.—The papers of the Calchas, the last vessel captured by Admiral Jessen's cruisers, showed she was carrying 350 tons flour, nine tons cotton, 215 cogs and 225 parts of machinery, all consigned to Yokohama. The remaining 1,500 tons of the Calchas's cargo were consigned to Hongkong.

The Calchas carried sufficient coal to go to Vladivostock, therefore it was decided to send her to that port in charge of Lieut. Stakelberg and 41 men from the Rurik.

ANOTHER FIGHT PROBABLY IN PROGRESS.

Chefoo, Aug. 9.—8 p.m.—From a source, hitherto reliable, it is said there is good reason to believe that the Japanese are renewing their attack on the remaining outer positions at Port Arthur.

The officers on the German cruiser Fuerst Bismark, lying at the outer edge of this harbor, express the opinion that the firing heard last night was an encounter between detachments of warships 20 miles northwest of Chefoo. From the cruiser the flashes of the guns could be seen.

JAPANESE TROOPS HOLD WOLF HILL.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—A dispatch received here from Lieut.-Gen. Stoessel confirms the previous reports that the Japanese before Port Arthur are in possession of Wolf Hill. The general says that on July 30th the Russians withdrew from their position on Wolf Hill.

The capture of this hill means that the Japanese now occupy a position within the perimenter of the fortress of Port Arthur.

The following dispatch from Viceroy Alexieff dated August 7th has been received by the Czar:

"Gen. Stoessel reports as follows:

"'At 5 in the morning of July 27th the enemy, having advanced a strong force their artillery opened fire along their whole front, followed by a series of attacks, one of which, directed against Yupilaza mountain, was especially vigorous. At about 8 in the evening the enemy were everywhere repulsed with enormous losses.

"'I remained in the advanced position we have held for two days against an army very much stronger than ours.

"'At 4 in the morning of July 30th about five divisions of Japanese took the offensive against our position of the Wolf hill. In view of the enormous superiority of the enemy and the weakness of the position, our troops were ordered to retire to the next position without fighting. The movement was effecting in good order under the protection of artillery, which by accurate fire at short ranges completely stopped the Japanese advance.

"'Our losses have not yet been ascertained, but they were not great.

"'The loss of the Japanese was very considerable.

"'In the engagements of July 26th and 27th the Japanese had about 70,000 and a considerable number of siege guns.

"'The morale of the Russian troops is excellent and their health good.'"

Gen. Stoessel locates Yupilaza mountain as situated ten miles northeast of Port Arthur, and says that the Japanese attack on that position was only a demonstration, the real assault of the Japanese being made on the Russian position on Wolf hill, which he points is only six miles northward and near the railway stations.

The general staff explains that this position consists of a large crest of hills, offering a great advantage owing to their proximity to the fortress. The staff is unable to account for the presence of five divisions on the Kwangtung peninsula.

CHEERED BY REPORTS FROM PORT ARTHUR.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—No fresh news of fighting or army movements comes from the front, and opinion still is divided as to whether the coming battle, news of the beginning of which the public is expecting to hear hourly, will be a general engagement, or only another rearguard action.

All the newspapers to-day express great relief over the reports from Port Arthur.

The army organ says that although General Stoessel's reports give no details, it is evident the Japanese have suffered a very severe reverse. The paper also pays a tribute to the navy's share in the defence of the besieged fortress.

Reviewing Gen. Kouropatkin's movement, it continued: "The retreat is in accordance with a plan laid down for the first period of the campaign, which is to weaken the forces of the enemy by contesting strongly the defensive positions, thus impeding Japanese progress, and compelling the enemy to waste large numbers of men and much war material on the advance. The results have been that in three and one-half months the Japanese have only covered a few score of versts."

The Russ estimates the Japanese losses thus far as a result of the siege of Port Arthur to aggregate 23,000, and says the Mikado's instructions not to waste lives must have been ironical.

COULD NOT WITHSTAND CHARGES OF JAPS

Gen. Kuroki's headquarters in the field, via Seoul, Aug. 1.—(Delayed in transmission).—Yesterday's battle was the most important which Gen. Kuroki's army has fought since crossing the Yalu. Many more Russians were engaged than in any former battle. They occupied an equally strong position, had much more artillery and were better acquainted with the country, having for a long time occupied the area over which the Japanese manoeuvred.

The Japanese victory upon this occasion, if not more important than that on the Yalu, was won against greater odds and was consequently a better test of the mettle of their troops, and more creditable to their valor. The result was that the Japanese

Gained Ten Miles or More

on their advance toward Liao Yang. How far the Russians have retreated is yet unknown, but only one strong position intervenes between Gen. Kuroki and Liao Yang.

It is impossible to estimate the Russian casualties during the engagement, and reports of losses on the Japanese side were not rendered this morning.

While the Russians and Japanese on this front are stretched over a long line of country, the Russians are known to have four divisions in the field between Gen. Kuroki and Liao Yang, and between that point and Mukden, a large proportion of the men being Poles from Europe.

The theatre of the part of the battle witnessed by the correspondent of the Associated Press was a valley beginning three miles from the Yangtse Pass. This valley, which is about ten miles long, nowhere more than a mile wide, and running from north to south, is level, covered with high corn, giving the troops fine cover.

In the morning the two armies were confronting each other across the valley. The Japanese army was stationed

On Ranges of Hills

fronting the pass, while the Russians held a higher range west of the valley.

An artillery engagement began in the morning, and lasted until five in the afternoon, in which neither side appeared to gain any advantage, so far as spectators could see. The Russians had batteries in the high hills beyond the village of Towan, commanding the Liao Yang road, which the Japanese shelled heavily all day from the front and left, without silencing. The Japanese artillery was handicapped in action by soft roads, which forced them to bring up ammunition by hand. The Russians used 24 guns from Motien Pass. The Japanese had two or more batteries in the hills, and one or two batteries in the valley on the plain without any cover except the high corn, which the

Russians Never Discovered

until after using all their fire on the batteries on the batteries on the hills.

A spectacular and daring feature of the day was the advance of the Japanese infantry across the valley, which resulted in the occupancy of all the Russian guns' positions and infantry intrenchments, all in the space of two hours. The Russians, as usual, could not withstand the charges of the Japanese infantry, and fled through the hills.

The appearance of the field this morning indicates a complete rout, the Russians leaving much clothing and camp paraphernalia behind them.

As a battery stationed just to the right of a tower in the village of Towan, from which Lieut.-Gen. Sakharoff, commanding the first Siberian army corps, witnessed the engagement, dashed down a hill in retreat, one gun was overturned and left at the foot of the hill, where it fell.

THE SINKING OF KNIGHT COMMANDER.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 7.—The official account of the sinking of the British steamship Knight Commander by the Vladivostock squadron says that a Russian cruiser fired two blank shots at her at a distance of two miles. Instead of stopping, the vessel steamed at full speed toward the gulf of Tokio, and only heaved to at a second shell, having in the meantime hoisted the British flag.

The visit to the vessel, the official account says, showed that the captain had neither charter nor manifest, but certified copies of these documents presented by the captain showed that his cargo was destined for Kobe and Yokohama. It was established that the vessel was chartered in the United States to sail for Japan with raw material and machinery, which is contraband, and the vessel was therefore liable to confiscation.

The proximity of a Japanese port, the lack of coal on board the Knight Commander to carry her to a Russian port and the impossibility of coaling from a Russian cruiser owing to the high seas running, obliged the Russian commander to sink the vessel.

The members of the crew were taken to Vladivostock as passengers, and not as prisoners. They were granted perfect liberty and every possible assistance was given them. They were also invited to attend the sittings of the prize court, although there was no obligation on their part to do so.

LETTER BOOK WAS USED AS EVIDENCE.

Vladivostock, Aug. 7.—The evidence on which the British steamer Knight Commander, sunk by the Vladivostock squadron, was condemned by the prize court was contained in a letter copying book taken from a press in the captain's cabin by Midshipman Baron Ert, after the officers and crew had left the vessel. This book was not delivered when the captain surrendered the other documents, and it proved conclusively to the Russians that the cargo of railway material carried by the Knight Commander was destined for Chemulpo and for private firms in Japan.

Before the prize court the captain was not compelled to take an oath, the prize court saying that it would accept his work of honor as a gentleman. The captain testified that neither he nor the owners of the Knight Commander knew that the cargo was contraband, and that they believed that it was not destined to be used as war material.

He was asked to refer to his own letter book and was dazed for a moment. He then exclaimed: "Heavens, I thought that book was at the bottom of the sea!"

The Knight Commander was promptly condemned.

GERMANY STILL AWAITS EXPLANATION.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 8.—1.30 p.m.—In spite of the excitement shown by a section of the German press, the German government is acting calmly in the matter of the sinking of the steamer Then, and is seemingly convinced that if any wrong has been done it will be righted. Germany thus far has contented herself by asking for an explaantion of the sinking of the ship, but in the absence of result of the official inquiry by the prize court at Vladivostock, Russia is not yet able to reply.

The German consul at Vladivostock confirms the statement that the Thea had only 160 tons of coal on board, not enough to get her to Vladivostock. He says she was loaded with fish and fish manure. The captain was given twenty minutes in which to abandon his ship, and the crew lost all their possession.

Apparently there was less justification for sinking the Thea than for sinking the Knight Commander, and if not sufficient, Germany doubtless will ask for compensation for the ship, which it is believed Russia will not resist.

STILL INVESTIGATING ACTION OF RUSSIANS.

Berlin, Aug. 9.—Germany is pursuing leisurely her investigation in the sinking of the steamer Thea by the Vladivostock squadron. It is pointed out that the recent developments in connection with the case have been excluded, since it is now known that her cargo was not American, but belonged to Japanese merchants. Germany is less exasperated over the sinking of the vessel since Russia already has reversed her rigorous course in the Red Sea and the German government assured that she will do likewise in the Far East. Russia, of course, will continue to exercise the right of search and capture, but in such a manner as not to give occasion for complaint on the part of other powers. Hence Germany patiently awaits the decision of the prize court at Vladivostock before making representations at St. Petersburg. In the meantime, it is practically certain that the powers will avoid a decision on the theoretical question as to whether provisions in all cases are exempt from contraband treatment.

The officials here see in the recent declarations of the state department that the United States is inclined to admit that provisions can be regarded as contraband in extreme cases as when manifestly designed for hostile armies, and Russia has given indications that Secretary Hay's position is satisfactory to her.

TURKEY AND RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER FLEET.

Constantinople, Aug. 8.—In connection with the volunteer fleet question, the Porte, which is being supported by Great Britain, has reminded Russia of its agreement with Turkey in 1891. This agreement stipulates that vessels of the volunteer fleet must not carry arms and munitions of war. The Porte also demands that vessels shall traverse the Bosphorus separately.

RUSSIAN CAVALRY BURNED A VILLAGE.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—Lieut.-Gen. Sakkaroff telegraphed that there is no change in the situation around Liao Yang.

A Russian cavalry detachment has made a successful raid towards Newchwang, burning a village and alarming the Japanese outposts.

THE QUESTION OF RIGHTS OF NEUTRALS.

London, Aug. 9.—The Associated Press learns that absolute accord exists between the United States and Great Britain in respect to the rights of neutral commerce, and when the declaration of Secretary Hay was published yesterday (it was communicated at the time of its issuance in June by Ambassador Choate to Foreign Secretary Lansdowne) the state department was informed that it was in entire accord with the attitude of Great Britain. In order that Russia might understand the similiarity of the British and American views, Lord Lansdowne directed the British ambassador at St. Petersburg to protest against the Russian definition of contraband along the same lines as the declaration transmitted through the American ambassador. Great Britain would like the United States to take steps to obtain international declaration defining the rights of neutrals but it is not thought at the foreign office here that Secretary Hay will do so, it being understood there he proposes to retain complete liberty of action.

For all practical purposes accord exists between the governments by the communication, especially on the part of Great Britain and the United States, of the action of their respective governments in specific incidents.

With reference to the establishment of a special admiralty prize court at the Russian capital to reconsider the case of the British steamer Knight Commander, announced in the Associated Press dispatches from St. Petersburg last night, the British officials are confident that it will reverse the decision of the prize court at Vladivostock. They maintain that the decision declaring the steamer to be a lawful prize was not justified by international law and whatever the vessel carried Admiral Jessen had no right to sink her. Great Britain will not accept a settlement merely by the payment of a monetary indemnity, but insists that a broad principle shall be established. Russia cannot do this at this moment in view of the finding of the Vladivostock court, but if the new court declares, as the British government anticipated, that international law did not justify the sinking of a neutral ship, then the question will be capable of easier adjustment.

The foreign office here denies that there will be any reference of the Knight Commander question to The Hague arbitration court, and says it is a matter for direct negotiation between the two governments and in view of the earnest desire of both to reach a peaceful agreement it is believed that a satisfactory settlement will be achieved.

MAY RUSSIA SINK SHIP BEFORE TRIAL?

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—The Associated Press learns that irrespective of the question whether the British steamer Knight Commander was a lawful prize, Great Britain's protest against the sinking of that vessel by the Vladivostock squadron goes further, to the right of Russia to destroy a neutral ship in advance of the judgment of a prize court, and while she does not specifically ask for compensation for damages she does so by implication.

PROCEEDED AFTER HOISTING ENSIGN.

Plymouth, Eng., Aug. 9.—The British steamer Manora, from Calcutta, June 29th, for London, arrived here to-day and reported that when 25 miles south of Cape Finistere on the northwest coast of Spain, she met a large cruiser with three funnels and two masts, flying a Russian naval flag. There were guns mounted on the cruiser, which evidently was one of the former German liners recently purchased by Russia. The cruiser bore down on the Manora and signalled the latter to hoist her ensign. When this was done the cruiser proceeded.

MOVING ON WEST OF THE RUSSIANS

Mukden, Aug. 9.—The Japanese are using the Shanhaikwan-Yinkow railway for providing the army with supplies and mobilizing troops for an attack on Sinmintum, about thirty miles west of Mukden.

Sinmintum is the northern terminus of the Shanhai Kwan railway from Koangtz, about seventy miles southwest of Sinmintum; a branch line connects with Yinkow, which is about 53 miles southeast of Koupangt.

A Russian correspondent in a dispatch from Taichekiao, July 23rd, said it was believed that the Shanhaikwan railway was then under the control of the Japanese with the consent of the Chinese. As early as March 29th last the Shanhaikwan correspondent of the London Daily Mail asserted that the Chinese had received official authorization to turn over the plant of the railway to the Japanese. The Japanese are in control of the Gulf of Liao Tung, and should the statement in the dispatch from Mukden prove to be correct, it would indicate that they are landing troops at Shanhaikwan, the southern terminus of the railway, and transporting them to Sinminfum. The strategic importance of the possession of the railway which was sought by the Russians early in the war, is apparent.

RUSSIANS MOVING FROM VLADIVOSTOCK.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—It is reported in military circles that Lieut.-General Linevitch is marching with troops from the direction of Vladivostock, to create a diversion in the rear of General Kuroki's army with the object of relieving General Kouropatkin's forces.

JAP ARMY DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS.

Liao Yang, Aug. 6.—(Delayed in transmission.)—General Kouropatkin is ready to defeat the Japanese plan for cutting off Liao Yang. The Japanese forces are divided into three groups, the first at Simouncheng, Haicheng and Newchwang; the second threatening Liandanisian and Liao Yang, and the third threatening Sikeseyan, Liao Yang and Mukden.

According to Chinese reports the Japanese are massing in the direction of Siamatsze, evidently flanking Liao Yang, and a strong column is ascending to the Liao valley, also for the purpose of flanking Liao Yang.

A reliable Chinese merchant declares this column includes 10,000 Chinese, Japanese subjects, from the island of Formosa. This most unwelcome development may induce other Chinese to join the Japanese. It is hard to tell a Formosan from a Manchurian.

RUSSIAN REPORT OF NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 9.—Emperor Nicholas has received the following dispatch from Viceroy Alexieff, dated at Mukden, Aug. 7th:

"Telegrams received to-day from Port Arthur and from the commander of the squadron state that the cruisers Bayan, Askold, Palada and Novik and some gunboats steamed out of the harbor on July 26th for the purpose of bombarding the enemy's positions. They were attacked by the Japanese battleship Chinien, the protected cruisers Chiyoda, Itsukushima and Matsushima and two second-class cruisers with thirty torpedo boats.

"An eight-inch shell from the Bayan burst in the stern of the Itsukushima, placing that ship out of action. Thereupon all the Japanese ships steered for the open sea and at the same time the Chiyoda was damaged by a Russian mine. As the Chiyoda was sinking by the head she steered towards Talien bay. A shot from Battery 22 also damaged a Japanese gunboat.

"On July 27th, in view of the Japanese having taken the general offensive against our land positions, the Bayan, the battleship Retvizan, the Palada, Askold and Novik, the coast defence vessels Gremiashchi, the Otvashni, the gunboat Kiliak and twelve torpedo boats were ordered to support our right flank at the demand of Lieut.-General Stoessel.

"Our ships preceded by mine dredgers steamed toward Lungantan, from where they bombarded the Japanese positions until 3 p.m. On their return a mine exploded underneath one of the dredgers."

THE LANDING OF JAPS AT LOUISA BAY.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 8.—The report that the Japanese are landing troops in Louisa bay, about nine miles northwest of Port Arthur, evokes no surprise at the war office. The officials here are astonished that the Japanese had neglected to do so at the outset of the siege of Port Arthur.

This enables the besiegers to surround the outer defences and feel out the weakest points and drive home an attack where least expected.

The war office does not confirm the Chefoo report of an attack on Port Arthur August 5th, and believes the telegram refers to the assault of July 26th, 27th and 28th. It is pointed out that if the Japanese lost 10,000 men then, it would be impossible for them to repeat the attack within eight days.

ANOTHER STORY OF FIGHT AT FORTRESS.

London, Aug. 10.—It is reported from Shanghai that the Russians are retreating northward from Anshanshan.

The Daily Telegraph's Cheefoo correspondent reports a great land and sea fight at Port Arthur August 8th, and the Japanese were repeatedly repulsed. Over 1,000 Russians were killed, the correspondent says.

The Russian troops have now been reinforced by civilians at Port Arthur.

RUSSIANS ALARMED BY NEWS FROM FRONT.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 10.—1 p.m.—Nervousness over the situation at the front seems to be increasing since the occupation by the Japanese of Wolf hill before Port Arthur. It is stated that the besiegers have now an elevated position whence emplaced guns can command the fortress, and while still professing that General Stoessel will be able to hold out with his comparatively small garrison against the enormous numbers of attackers and their disregard of men indicated by the reckless manner in which they stormed the outer positions, the state of affairs creates more apprehension than the war office or admiralty care to acknowledge.

Similar misgivings exist regarding General Kouropatkin's position, with the advantages of the new Japanese base at Newchwang in greatly simplifying the problem of provisioning their army, being fully realized.

But it is the report that the Japanese are working up westward of the main Russian army which occasions the greatest uneasiness. The rumor that they are moving up towards Sinmintun, a short distance west of Mukden, from Newchwang, is generally believed. With the Japanese cordon tightening south and east, and a column threatening the Russian line of communication in the rear towards Mukden, the appearance of the Japanese on the other side of Mukden would almost pocket General Kouropatkin, if he has resolved to accept battle with his whole army at Liao Yang.

Shrewd military attaches are extremely doubtful whether Gen. Kouropatkin could now withdraw even if he so desired.

Another alarming feature of the situation in connection with the Japanese western column is the report that it includes many Chinese, who are Japanese subjects, from the Island of Formosa, whose influence on the local Chinese and the soldiers of Gen. Ma and Viceroy Yuanshikai is feared.

SIGHTED JAPANESE WARSHIP NEAR CHEFOO.

Chefoo, Aug. 10.—1.15 p.m.—The steamer Kashing reports having seen a Japanese warship last night 30 miles northwest of Chefoo. The warship was patrolling the vicinity where firing was heard last Monday.

NO PARTICULAR CHANGES IN FIELD.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 10.—Emperor Nicholas has received dispatches from Gen. Kouropatkin, dated August 8th and August 9th, mentioning a few minor reconnaissances, but saying that there has been no particular change in the position