

RUSS DESTROYERS REACH THE OPEN

Eight Escape From Port Arthur During Storm.

TOGO'S CRUISERS SCOUTING

Fleet Seen Off Singapore Is Not Likely to Engage the Baltic Fleet.

London, Dec. 22. — The Daily Telegraph's "Chee Poo" correspondent reports that eight torpedo-boats have escaped from Port Arthur, where for the last 24 hours, he says, a severe snowstorm has been raging.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22. — The announcement that four Japanese cruisers and twelve torpedo-boats are proceeding west from Singapore, is received here with much interest. It is not believed, however, that such a small squadron can have been sent out by Japan with any idea of engaging the offensive operations but it is regarded as more probable that it will attempt to watch the two detachments of the Russian fleet, which are expected soon to unite near Madagascar. It is generally believed that Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky intends to establish a coaling base on a small island between Madagascar and the Philippines, and that the Japanese cruising squadron, hopes to indicate the rendezvous for Vice-Admiral Togo's information.

Tokio, Dec. 22. — A report received from Vice-Admiral Togo, last night, says: "A prisoner taken by our fleet is considered to be reliable. He reports that as a result of our attack since Dec. 13, eight torpedo-boats, the net of the battleship Sevastopol, and that at least one took effect on her hull. This seems to have occurred on the night of Dec. 15 or early on Dec. 16. The Sevastopol's crew was seen to be confused, and a hawser from the shore was attached to the battleship. The torpedo which struck the hull took effect on the port side, damaging about eight feet along the rivet line."

"The Sevastopol is now headed toward the outer part of the entrance to the harbor with her stern aground and her gun ports awash almost awash. The ship is listing to starboard and the side lights in her deck are submerged. There is one torpedo boat to the starboard of the Sevastopol, and one pumping vessel to port, together with one vessel resembling a mine layer, all of which are busily engaged in pumping, but it will be difficult to restore the seaworthiness of the warship."

"On the night of Dec. 16 one of our torpedo boats struck the bow of a Russian torpedo boat destroyer and that vessel is now ashore."

Another report from Admiral Togo says:

"After personal observation outside Port Arthur I found that the Sevastopol, which was attacked by our torpedo flotilla, is now anchored in the shallows about 400 yards from the shore of Cheongta Mountain. The Russians are engaged in pumping, but the Sevastopol is listing slightly. There can be no hope of restoring the vessel to fighting trim, considering the present condition of Port Arthur, and I judge that she is completely disabled. I also observed that the enemy's destroyer which was torpedoed by us has been destroyed."

Mukden, Dec. 22. — The Japanese are reported to be suffering from cold sickness in the vicinity of Peking and Shinkwei, where it is said they lost 2,000 men in a single week. The port of Yinkow is closed by ice.

Tokio, Dec. 22. — A dispatch received by telegraph today from the Japanese army before Port Arthur says: "The right column of our army at 5 o'clock this morning, taking advantage of the enemy's excitement, drove the enemy off an eminence north of Housanyentzen. The Japanese occupied the position, and at 7 o'clock dislodged the enemy from a height on the peninsula west of Housanyentzen, which was occupied by the enemy. After the Japanese occupation of the positions the enemy made a counter attack, but was immediately repulsed. At present our occupation of the positions is practically secure."

Singapore, Straits Settlements, Dec. 22. — Two Japanese cruisers called here this morning and left at night. They reported that two Japanese battleships, two first-class cruisers, torpedo-boats, and destroyers were nearby, steaming west.

Shanghai, Dec. 22. — A squadron of powerful cruisers under Admiral Kamimura has gone south to the China Sea to meet the Russian second Pacific squadron.

General Oku's Headquarters, via Fusan, Thursday, Dec. 22. — Delayed in transmission. — The Russians along the front of General Oku's army during the night of Dec. 20, made a determined attack on Lamung, but were driven back with heavy casualties. Dismounted cavalry attacked the cavalry on the extreme left of the Japanese lines on the night of Dec. 21, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

Small detachments of Russians nightly attack the Japanese outposts and patrols, but with no success.

WOODSTOCK'S MYSTERY

Three Men Under Arrest in Connection With Edwards' Death.

Woodstock, Ont., Dec. 22. — When the inquest is resumed next Wednesday over the body of John Edwards, who met a mysterious death in a slaughter house here some weeks ago, some sensational evidence may be forthcoming. Three men are now in jail here who may have had some connection with the affair. They are charged with stealing money from the dead man. William Selby admitted being in the slaughter house with the deceased on the day of his death, but declares he is innocent of either assault or theft. Lee and Montgomery were with Edwards and Selby at Beachville the same day, and they admit that Edwards had \$20 the morning he disappeared.

BRITON IN PERIL

Moroccan Tribesmen Demand That They Be Handed Over to Them.

Tangier, Dec. 22. — A courier from Alcazar, about 15 miles northeast of Tangier, states that tribesmen have surrounded Alcazar and threaten to sack the town unless the French consul and one British subject are handed over to them.

LONDON'S FOG LIFTS

Western Breeze Drives the Fog From the British Capital.

London, Dec. 22. — The fog in London practically disappeared this afternoon before a western breeze. Remnants of the fog show a continuation of the dislocation of traffic. According to a telegram from Liverpool at 10 o'clock this morning the White Star Line steamers Oceanic and Cedric were still fog-bound in the Mersey.

IS IT JAP PLOT TO END CONFLICT?

Russia Thinks Chinese Rising Will Be Started by the Mikado's Agents.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22. — The Russian authorities have received information from the Chinese situation, indicating that Japan's influence is predominant, not only in the anti-foreign societies, but in the army and at the situation is becoming critically dangerous.

The belief prevails that in the spring Japan, under the cover of an actual or threatened rising in China, will seek to secure the intervention of the powers to end the war. Direct evidence exists that the anti-foreign proclamations circulating in China were printed in Japan.

AMBUSHED AND KILLED

U. S. Lieutenant and 37 Men Killed by Rebel Band.

Manila, Dec. 22. — The Pulajanes have ambushed and killed U. S. Lieutenant and 37 enlisted men of the Thirty-eighth Company of native scouts, at Dolores, where the rebels reported, threaten the town of Dolores, and the situation is said to be critical. Lieut. Abbott, in command of the scouts, has requested that he be sent home.

SAZONOFF IN LONDON

Man Alleged to Have Been Exiled for Killing Von Plehve.

Zurich, Dec. 20. — The Journal says that Sazonoff, who assassinated M. von Plehve, the Russian Minister of the Interior, and who was officially reported to have been killed in St. Petersburg, and condemned to penal servitude for life, is now in London.

DONALD GILLIES FOR CENTRE BRUCE

Liberals Choose Newspaperman to Contest Riding for Legislature.

Flesherton, Ont., Dec. 22. — The Liberals of Center Grey held a largely-attended and most enthusiastic convention yesterday. Seventeen prominent men were nominated, but all retired in favor of Mr. Donald Gillies, of Clarksburg, whose nomination was made unanimous. Mr. Gillies is a newspaperman, and while not long a resident of the county, is very popular. He is a strong temperance advocate.

SMOTHERED TO DEATH

Accident in Colliery Causes Death of Seven Foreign Miners.

Bolivar, Pa., Dec. 22. — In a fire, which originated in a shanty at the pit mouth of the coal mine of the Reese-Hammond Brick Company at Garfield, just across the river from here, today, seven foreigners were smothered to death, and two Americans were so badly overcome that their recovery is not yet assured. When the shanty caught fire the fans drove the smoke into the mine, smothering the foreigners. The Americans who were rescued were Samuel C. Henderson and Henry Gibson. There were a number of men in the mine, but all got out safely, except those named.

WHITNEY AT NAPANEE

The Conservative Leader Opens the Provincial Campaign.

Napanee, Ont., Dec. 22. — The Opposition campaign was opened here tonight by Leader Whitney. While well attended, the meeting lacked the stirring enthusiasm that characterized the great gathering of Tuesday night, when Premier Ross addressed the electors of Lennox. Mr. Whitney's speech was largely self-laudatory. He rebuked the usual corruption charges against the Government and announced himself the appointed cleanser of Ontario's politics. He declared the Conservative policy was that laid down in 1902, and predicted that it would bring about a victory for the party on Jan. 25. Other speakers were Mr. W. J. Hanna, Mr. J. Lockie Wilson and Mr. Carscallen.

LAWSON SCORES; ROGERS SILENT

Boston Broker Sends Out Another Lurid Warning.

KEENE FORCED INTO THE OPEN

Standard Oil Magnate Told to Call Off His Dogs Unless He Wishes to Have Them Shot.

New York, Dec. 22. — Thomas W. Lawson rested on his laurels last night after a day of general victory all along the line in his melodramatic battle with the generals of "Frenzied Finance."

Henry H. Rogers, the Standard Oil financier who had stepped into the limelight with a dramatic warning against the most recent revelations, went back into seclusion with the parting assurance that he would make no effort to call Lawson or anybody else to criminal account.

James R. Keene was forced into the open by the "dare" of the restless Bostonian and contributed to the general symposium the contents of a previous letter to Lawson regarding an amalgamated stock deal for Rogers running up into a score of millions.

Delaware politicians helped along with some further interesting details of the latest bribery deal down in that state, on which Lawson had expatiated in his latest magazine effusion.

Contemplating these things, Lawson himself, in Boston, added a spectacular touch to the day's developments by addressing another open letter to Rogers, breathing out sundry threats of slaughter.

"Of course, I know your methods, and that the criminals in your pay will stand at nothing to 'fix me,' Lawson wrote. 'I regret being compelled to take this method of defending myself, and only do so after having been convinced there are no other means. I am not a murderer, but I am a defender. I wish herewith to notify you, and through you any and all thugs who are seeking me, that I, in my own defense, will shoot at sight the first Donohue who calls upon me or in any way comes into my presence after giving me notice such as the above. I regret being compelled to take this method of defending myself, and only do so after having been convinced there are no other means. I am not a murderer, but I am a defender. I wish herewith to notify you, and through you any and all thugs who are seeking me, that I, in my own defense, will shoot at sight the first Donohue who calls upon me or in any way comes into my presence after giving me notice such as the above. 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