4 P.M. EDITION

London Advertiser

Read Small Ads. ON PAGE 8.

40TH YEAR. NO. 17133 THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1904. PRICE TWO CENTS.

PORT ARTHUR, THE IMPREGNABLE, TO BE LEFT TO ITS FATE; VICEROY ALEXIEFF CHOOSES HARBIN AS HIS FUTURE BASE

News of the Change in Plans Creates Consternation in Russian Military Circles---Jap Strength Realized.

GREAT ALARM AND DESPONDENCY AT ST. PETERSBURG

Revolutionaries Taking Part in So-Called Patriotic Demonstrations Throughout Russia—Ten Russian Vessels Crippled in the Various Actions at Port Arthur.

New York, Feb. 19. — A cable from the World's correspondent in Berlin says Viceroy Alexieff has determined to fall back to Harbin, leaving Port Arthur to work out its own salvation. Alexieff takes this step in view of the utter impossibility of maintaining and protecting a line of communication 1,200 miles long, and as vulnerable to attack as the railway through Manchuria. The viceroy is fully confident that Port Arthur can withstand a long siege. He is now fortifying Harbin, and will use it as the base of a great army.

The announcement that Harbin and not the "impregnable" Port Arthur will be the base of future operations has been received with consternation in Russian military circles. It has caused a sensation more painful than the calamities which have befallen the Russian fleet as, more clearly than any event that has occurred, it reveals the formidable nature of the enemy to whom Russia is opposed. The feeling of alarm and despondency grow deeper at St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The police have good reasons to believe that the revolutionaries are taking part in the so-called patriotic manifestations.

The concentration of troops, the correspondent says, proceeds systematically, and provision has been made for the speedy arrival of 120,000 men from the divisions of Moscow, Kieff and Varsovie. Before twelve days shall have elapsed the Russians will have disposed of an army of 400,000 men through Manchuria.

Intense demoralization exists among the populace and the people of the surrounding villages are flocking into the town, seeking to reach Western Russia. The railway trains, however, are blocked, and over 2,000 voyagers are thus held up. The intense cold prevailing increases the suffering and adds to the difficulties of bringing forward troops.

New York, Feb. 19. — The Russian warship Bayan, according to a cable to the World from Tokio, is reported to have been the vessel most damaged in the last torpedo attack on Port Arthur (Sunday, Feb. 14). The Japanese attacked with torpedoes at a distance of only 500 yards. As a result of the actions at Port Arthur ten Russian warships are crippled.

It is believed here that no further naval engagements will take place in the open, as the Japanese torpedo boats can do destructive work most expeditiously and most cheaply.

WARSHIP ORDERED OUT.

Russian Vessel at the Canary Islands Must Move Along.

Shanghai, Feb. 19.—A large Japanese cruiser arrived at Wusung (11 miles north of Shanghai) today.

Madrid, Feb. 19. — A Russian warship has arrived at a Canary Island port. The authorities have notified her commander that his ship may remain in port for a limited time, but that he cannot be provided with coal in quantity more than sufficient to enable him to reach the nearest Russian port.

Premier Maura denies the report that the British Government hinted to Spain the necessity for adopting measures to safeguard her neutrality in the Russo-Japanese dispute, asserting that no diplomatic negotiations whatever have been received on the subject, and that the military measures taken were a step required by the most elementary prudence.

HSI PING FIRED ON.

British Ship Seeking Shelter Attacked by Russians.

Shanghai, Feb. 19. — The British steamer Hsi Ping (which arrived here yesterday from Chin Wang Tao), reports that she was fired on by the Russian ships and forts when seeking shelter in the outer roadstead of Port Arthur, and that she was then ordered to Danly, where she was detained four days, in spite of her captain's protests. The Russian gunboat Mandjur remains at Shanghai in defiance of the orders of the Chinese officials to leave this port.

Full accounts of the firing show that the Russians ordered the Hsi Ping, together with the British steamer, Pronto, to extinguish their lights and fires. Russian warships then arrived, and finding three vessels in the roadstead without lights, they began firing at them. The Pronto received most of the shots. The forts then began firing and the utmost confusion prevailed.

FRENCH NEUTRALITY.

Broad Hint Given Russian Squadron at French Somaliland.

Paris, Feb. 19.—It is announced officially that the French Government has issued instructions relative to the observance of neutrality, and that, practically, they are the same as those issued by the late Admiral Besnard, the former marine minister, concerning the observance of neutrality during the Spanish-American war. But, it is pointed out, that the French navigation laws contain no positive requirement that belligerent ships shall leave a neutral port within 24 hours, and that, therefore, this matter is one of regulation by custom, instead of being a legal requirement, as under the British navigation laws.

No change has yet been announced, relative to permitting the Russian squadron to remain at Jubutil, French Somaliland, the authorities evidently being desirous to fully observe the requirement of neutrality without unnecessarily causing offense or embarrassment to a power with which France is closely allied.

THE RUSSIAN RETREAT.

Paris "Figaro" Approves Latest Tactics of Alexieff.

Paris, Feb. 19. — Significance it attached to the Figaro's discussing the possible retreat of the Russian forces from Port Arthur, towards the north. The Figaro, which is intensely pro-Russian and enjoys the favor of the Russian court, says:

"The Russian note explaining the delays in the military operations, has had the effect of confirming Viceroy Alexieff's plan to withdraw northward toward Mukden and Harbin."

The military editor of the Figaro declares this would be a wise and tactical movement, as the Russian troops are better able to make a stand further north.

A GLOOMY CARNIVAL.

Very Little Festivity and Gay Sleigh Parties Are Few.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 19. — Today and tomorrow, the closing days of carnival week, will be observed practically only by a cessation of work. There will be little rejoicing. Such a carnival time is not remembered. There have been no festivities and no gay sleigh parties to the islands. Instead, the people gather about the bands playing in the streets, or follow the troops departing for the front.

None of the reports from abroad of renewed Japanese attacks on Port Arthur has yet been officially confirmed, although private advices continue to report an attempted landing, which was repulsed.

An official communication announcing Russia's withdrawal from participation in the St. Louis is published in the following terms:

"The ministry of finance hereby brings to the notice of intending exhibitors at St. Louis, that in view of the refusal of merchants and manufacturers, owing to existing circumstances, to send exhibits to America, the Russian Government has recognized the necessity to decline to participate in the aforementioned exposition."

The Novoe Vremya, in a leading editorial on Secretary Hay's proposal in regard to the neutrality of China, says it does not see why Russia cannot agree to it, if it means only Chinese neutrality.

"The document appears to protect Russia from a flank attack," the Novoe Vremya adds, "and recognizes her exceptional position north of the Great Wall; but the note stands or falls with the reality of Chinese neutrality. So long as China honestly and successfully maintains neutrality, Russia will be unwilling to violate it."

As a means of meeting the extraordinary war expenses, the Bourse Gazette says it believes the present is a favorable time for an income tax, which will not meet with opposition owing to the general readiness of the nation to share the burden imposed by the war.

IN THE YALU VALLEY.

Russians Are Concentrated and Daily Expecting Reinforcements.

Harbin, Manchuria, Thursday, Feb. 18. — The Russian troops are concentrated in the lower Yalu Valley. Everybody is in high spirits, and daily expecting reinforcements.

Russian families are leaving Manchuria owing to thhe dearness of provisions, all of which are required for the troops.

The Manchurian, and especially the Trans-Baikal Railroads, cannot cope with the demands for transportation. Women and children are unable to get trains, and many are waiting at the stations suffering from cold and hunger.

The Chinese are quiet and are bringing in provisions. The rise in prices is due to some extent to the fall in the value of paper money, which in some places is altogether refused.

SHIPS IN DISTRESS

Collision Off Isle of Wight—Belgian Liner Ashore.

London, Feb. 19. — The British steamer Lake Michigan, Capt. Owen, from St. John, N. B., Feb. 5, and Halifax, Feb. 8, for London, which passed the Isle of Wight yesterday, has been in collision with an unknown vessel, and is anchored near Dungeness, awaiting tugs. The vessel with which the Lake Michigan collided is reported to have been sunk.

The Belgian steamer Philippeville, which left Antwerp yesterday for the Congo, with a hundred passengers on board, went ashore off Dungeness, Kent, in a fog early this morning. Lifeboats and tugs are in attendance upon her.

WANTS TO WAR WITH BRITAIN

Russia Attempting to Cement a European Alliance Against Albion.

Paris, Feb. 19. — The Figaro this morning publishes a telegram said to be from a high Russian official, and sent from the frontier, saying that Col. Von Schenk, the commander of the Emperor Alexander Regiment of German Guards, of which the Czar is honorary colonel-in-chief, was received by the Czar on Monday and handed to his majesty an autograph letter from Emperor William on the war in the Far East, and especially on the subject of Great Britain's attitude.

Continuing, the Figaro's informant says official circles in Russia continue to count on Germany's unreserved support, and discuss openly the possible change of equilibrium of Europe which might result from the grouping together of Russia, Germany and France, taken in connection with the anti-British feeling.

The increasing possibility of war with Great Britain is discussed without reserve in Russian military circles. Rear Admiral Rojestvenski, chief of the general staff of the navy, has said it was impossible, according to the Russian official who telegraphs the Figaro, to send to Port Arthur all the naval officers who want to go there, because they may be required in the Baltic.

In conclusion, this official says the whereabouts of Viceroy Alexieff has been unknown for three days past, and that the official telegrams are received without signature.

THE BALLOT FRAUDS

Poll Clerk Durance Again in Box Tells of His Confession.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 19. — The poll clerk, J. J. Durance, was again in the box this morning, at the civic election investigation. He said the first man to whom he confessed was W. D. McPherson, his solicitor, on Feb. 4. He had never told Riddell or any one associated with Mr. Riddell what he would say in the witness box. Vernon Kelly, a cabdriver, told of the visit of Controller Richardson, Jos. Hazelton and the others to the ward on New Year's Eve. He was first called to Richardson's office, about 7:30, later he drove Richardson to the ward, and while waiting outside a hotel he saw Hazelton and Ald. Ramsden enter. Witness had driven Richardson and Alf. Maguire through the same districts to pay similar visits on the previous Tuesday. Alf Maguire was next called. Te said $12 was given him by Richardson to get good scrutineers. He gave it to Robinson, the man who kept the house in the ward, to get the scrutineers. Alf. Maguire is a brother of Geo. Maguire, the D. R. O. at whose booth the votes of Senator Cox and about 14 others were plugged on persons noted. He said that this visit to the ward that night was with Ald. Ramsden, who had asked him to go.

A motion to prohibit Judge Winchester from trying the quo warran proceedings to unseat Controller Richardson was made before Judge Teetzell this morning, and judgment was reserved. The ground taken is that the amendments to the municipal act providing for the new office of controllers are so clumsily drawn that there is no provision for unseating a controller.

A REAR-END COLLISION

Disastrous Smashup in Freight Yards of Elmira.

Elmira, N. Y., Feb. 19. — With a fast eastbound freight train standing on the track just north of the Erie depot in this city this morning, the towerman gave another eastbound freight a clear block. A blinding snowstorm and steam from other engines in the yard prevented the engineer of the incoming freight from seeing the other train standing on the track, and a rear-end collision resulted. Seven cars were hurled from the track, the engineer of the moving train, Jacob Elston, of this city, being badly injured. He was removed to the hospital and will probably recover. Fireman Jones went under his engine and the body was crushed into an unrecognizable mass.

The War Situation

A startling development of the Far East situation is the reported abandonment of Port Arthur by Alexieff in favor of Harbin. Simultaneous with this is a Government announcement telling the people not to expect immediate victories. Great despondency and alarm prevails throughout Russia, which has at last realized the great strength of the Japs. Alexieff is concentrating a big army at Harbin, but it may be many weeks before he is able to move. Troops in transit across Siberia are suffering from the intense cold, and there is a panic-stricken rush of civilians towards Western Russia. The Japs evidently intend to isolate Port Arthur, and it is generally conceded that it cannot hold out very long. Russia is accused of attempting to form an alliance with Germany and France against Britain. France has not yet declared herself neutral. Lloyds are issuing war risks on an Anglo-French outbreak within three months. Feverish activity prevails at the British arsenals and navy yards. An army of 10,000 Russian troops is hemmed in between Port Arthur and the Japs. A rumor from Canton says the Dowager Empress of China is dead. Japs were repulsed in a fight at Port Arthur on the 16th, while their victory of Sunday has been confirmed.

THE COLONIES AND PROTECTION

Lord Brassey Says Canada Does Not Favor Chamberlain's Policy.

London, Feb. 19.—Lord Brassey, addressing a meeting at Leigh, turning to the colonial aspect of the fiscal question, pointed out that there was no real demand in the colonies for the changes advocated by Mr. Chamberlain; there had been no proposal by any responsible minister for some "mutual bargain"; so far as Canada and Australia were concerned, it was impossible to arrange the terms of a bargain for their mutual benefit. All the preference the colonies were willing to give was to put an extra duty on foreign manufactured articles. This, as Mr. Chamberlain pointed out at the last colonial conference, was not an effective preference. Referring to the Canadian Minister of Agriculture at the Montreal Congress, who said: "Anything you do to interfere with the purchasing power of your people would be the deadliest blow Canada could receive; no preference you could give in your market to the agricultural products of Canada would make up to us for the decrease in the purchasing power of your people." Lord Brassey hoped Englishmen would take these wise words of caution from a Canadian minister to heart and would act more wisely than Mr. Chamberlain would have them act.

At the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce a copy of the approved minute of the Privy Council referring to Canada was read, saying that the existing customs law of Canada did not admit a refund of the duty on travelers' samples; an act of Parliament would be required to change the law, and the Government of Canada was not prepared to state what changes, if any, would be entertained by Parliament. W. Priest said there was not much reciprocity about that. R. P. Yates said the tone of the reply was more suggestive of "mind your business."

The Birmingham Daily Post, referring to the following, says: "We are afraid our traders do not yet quite realize the strength of the protectionist spirit in most of our colonies and their eagerness to keep out British or other manufactures that may compete in any measure with their own budding industries."

WEATHER BULLETIN

TOMORROW—FINE AND COLDER.

London, Friday, Feb. 19.

Sun rises..7:12 a.m. Moon rises..8:34 a.m.
Sun sets...5:52 p.m. Moon sets...9:10 p.m.

Toronto, Feb. 18—8 p.m.

More moderate conditions have prevailed today in Canada, and especialy so in Southern Alberta and Assiniboia. Light snowfalls are occurring this evening in Ontario, while elsewhere the weather is fair.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 28 below—22 below; Calgary, 4—32; Qu'Appelle, 12 below—12; Winnipeg, 6 below—8; Port Arthur, 4—16; Parry Sound, 24 below—12; Toronto, 6 below—14; Ottawa, 16 below—8; Montreal, 6 below—6; Quebec, 2 below—10; Halifax, 10—30.

FORECASTS.

Friday, Feb. 19—8 a.m.

Today—Northerly winds; fair.
Saturday—Fine and moderately cold.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	2	2	Clear
Winnipeg	—6	—14	Fair
Parry Sound	8	6	Cloudy
Toronto	12	10	Snow
Ottawa	8	6	Cloudy
Montreal	6	4	Cloudy
Quebec	4	0	Cloudy
Father Point	8	6	Cloudy

The sign — indicates "below zero."

WEATHER NOTES.

The weather has become more moderate throughout the country, but as yet there is no thaw indicated. The disturbance which was over the Mississippi Valley yesterday is passing south of the lakes. Light snow has fallen in Southern Ontario during the night.

The highest and lowest readings at the local observatory during the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. were: Highest, 12° above; lowest, 8° below.

SWEPT BY GREAT SEAS

SS. Lahn Has a Tempestuous Voyage Captain and Officers Hurt.

New York, Feb. 19.—Battered by heavy seas, and with her captain and second officer injured by an enormous wave, which swept over the bridge, the steamer Lahn reached port today after a tempestuous voyage from Genoa, Naples and Gibraltar. She was under reduced speed every day. Last Sunday the weather was very stormy, and seas repeatedly broke over the foredeck. One giant sea struck the bridge and knocked Capt. Bolte and Second Officer Glund down, fracturing two of the captain's ribs and bruising the second officer about the head.

SENATOR WARKS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Receives Congratulations From the Premier, the Senate and His Majesty King Edward.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Feb. 19. — The Premier telegraphed to Senator Wark today as follows: "Hon. Senator Wark,—My colleague, Hon. H. R. Emmerson, will be in Fredericton today, to offer you the congratulations of the Canadian Government on the occasion of your 100th anniversary. At the same time I beg to join my own personal voice to the voice of all your fellow-citizens in thanking Providence that your life has been spared, and in hoping that by God's blessing it will be preserved for many years. (Signed), Wilfrid Laurier."

Another message is as follows from the Secretary of State to Hon. Senator Wark: "On behalf of the Government of Canada and myself I desire to offer you our congratulations on the celebration of your centenary. Your long and useful life marked by equanimity and temperance, presents a noble example for youth and middle age to emulate. I hope to see you next months in your place in the Senate, when you will receive a hearty welcome from that body, in whose deliberations you have for so many years taken an active interest. (Signed), W. W. Scott."

Among the messages which the senator received is one from King Edward.

DOWAGER EMPRESS DEAD?

Report Says Queen Mother of China Has Expired.

London, Feb. 19. — A special dispatch from Canton says it is reported in official circles there that the Dowager Empress of China is dead.

HEARD SHOT BY 'PHONE

Louisville Man Murdered in the Act of Telephoning His Bride.

Louisville, Feb. 19. — William B. Rucker was shot dead as he stood at a telephone talking to his wife. He was married three weeks ago. He had called up his wife at her home, about ten squares from his office. As the shot rang out she heard his shriek and then the sound of his body as it fell to the floor, overturning a chair.

Mrs. Rucker, running at full speed through the streets in the busy part of the day, reached the little office wherein lay her husband almost as soon as did occupants of other offices in the large building. The assassin had stood on the pavement, the office being on the first floor and next to the street, and from that point had fired the fatal bullet through the window. It went straight to Rucker's heart.

Two arrests have been made, but the evidence against the men is purely circumstantial. They had quarreled with Rucker, who was a real-estate agent, and had threatened to even up scores. After the shooting they were among the first to enter the room and enlist in the search for the assassin, and the police considered the circumstances sufficiently incriminating to warrant arrests. Rucker was twenty-five years of age and was well regarded.

ICE IN THE LAKES

Its Great Thickness Will Retard the Opening of Navigation.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 19. — Reports from all over the lakes indicate that the ice is heavier this season than ever before, and it is claimed the opening of navigation will be retarded. The ice is heavy on all the lake, and comparisons with this and last year indicate a varying thickness of from five to nine inches greater at all the principal ports.

THE GENEVA CONVENTION.

Berne, Switzerland, Feb. 19. — In consequence of the war between Russia and Japan, the federal council has postponed indefinitely the international conference summoned to meet at Geneva on May 16, to revise the Geneva convention, with the view of improving the treatment of wounded men.

Europe Fears an Outbreak of an Anglo-French War Within Next Three Months---France Not Yet Neutral.

THE RUSSIAN GOV'T. EXPECTS A LONG, HARD WAR

Great Britain's Activity in the Arsenal at Woolwich and in Navy Circles---Sixty Battleships To Be Outfitted With Brand New Guns—Destruction of the Boyarin.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 19. — An afternoon paper publishes the following cable:

London, Feb. 19. — Lloyd's is today asking a premium of 30 per cent against an outbreak of an Anglo-French war within the next three months. This high rate is based on the fact that France has not given a formal declaration of an attitude of neutrality toward the far eastern belligerents, beyond a vague statement by Foreign Minister Delcasse. In fact, the French Government, instead of giving such assurance, has allowed Russia to use Jibutil, which is in French colony at the head of the Red Sea, as a base of rendezvous for her fleet. This is contrary to the usage of other neutral powers.

Again, French troops and soldiers have been ordered to the east from Mediterranean ports, and this, taken in conjunction with the attitude of the Government, is thought in many quarters to be significant. It is known that Russia is using her utmost endeavor to get France to stretch every point in her favor, and is anxious to have a strong French fleet in Asiatic waters as a menace against Japanese vessels, and to be of use in restoring the naval equilibrium in the Yellow Sea.

The British foreign office is uneasy regarding the outlook, while the admiralty is getting ready for rapid mobilization in case certain eventualities develop.

RUSSIANS HEMMED IN.

London, Friday, Feb. 19. — The Japanese legation here received an official dispatch from Tokio last night, saying it was not true that any Japanese vessels had been destroyed, so far, in any of the various naval engagements, and that all necessary repairs had already been made. The Japanese fleet remains intact. This message also denies the report that the Japanese were driven from the neighborhood of Kin Chau after a skirmish, in which 150 Japanese were taken prisoners, and declares that the Japanese made no attempts to land at Pigeon Bay. It says the Japanese forces have up to the present time made no attempt to land at any point where they could come in contact with the Russians, and that consequently all reports of land actions and Japanese losses are untrue.

The Russian embassy at Rome is that the Japanese fleet has established a base of supplies at Elliott Islands, off the coast of the Liao Tung Peninsula, seventy-five miles northeast of Port Arthur. This tends to confirm the belief that Japan is preparing to attack Port Arthur and advance through Manchuria.

THE JAPS REPULSED.

A Fight on the 16th Which Is Claimed as a Russian Victory.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says: "No official announcement has yet been made regarding the report from Tokio that a second Japanese torpedo attack at Port Arthur has taken place. There are reports here, but they lack official confirmation that an attack on Port Arthur, on Feb. 16, was repulsed after heavy fighting on both sides. According to the story, this attack was intended as a feint to cover a landing at Talienwan Bay, but it failed because the Russian guns were placed with great foresight to command the shore. The Russian expert says the Japanese evidently hoped the adjacent group of Elliott Isles would cover this movement, as they did the same thing during the Chino-Japanese war, landing simultaneously at Talienwan and Kin Chau, thus cutting off Port Arthur from each side of the Liao Tung Peninsula. It surprises me, this expert continues, that the Japanese should have adopted a foolhardy attempt to face the Russians, as they must know from their spies how strongly the peninsula is mined and defended."

A LONG, HARD WAR.

Russia Tells Her People Not to Expect Immediate Victories.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg, dated Thursday, says: "The Government's frank statement in its communiques of this morning on Russia's unpreparedness owing to Japan's sudden precipitation of hostilities, and warning the Russian public not to expect immediate victories, confirms the opinion which has existed here that Russia will act upon the defensive until her army is fully mobilized, and the equipment of the commissariat is in perfect working order. There are already over 300,000 men in the field, and this number will be largely augmented. About 50,000 men are required to guard the railroad. The work of the Russian Red Cross Society is being pushed with great vigor. The donations already exceed $5,000,000. Baron Korf is now devoting his entire time to Red Cross work as chief of the society. Baron Korf said: 'We are preparing for a long, hard war.'"

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Paris Journal says, in a dispatch, that War Minister Kuropatkin, has been appointed to the chief command of the troops in Manchuria. He will be under Viceroy Alexieff.

Little far eastern news appears in the press this morning, with the exception of official dispatches, and the comment is made that the official reports of Viceroy Alexieff and others are remarkable mostly for what they leave unsaid. These reports attract far less attention than does the significantly frank Russian proclamation, asking the people to be patient until the army is ready to strike blows worthy the dignity and might of Russia. The threats in this document are commented upon by the British press in tones of considerable irony. It is now believed both in London and on the continent that Viceroy Alexieff has decided to fall back upon Harbin, practically abandoning Port Arthur, Vladivostock and the whole of Southern Manchuria to the Japanes, and that he is perhaps hoping that the reduction of Port Arthur and Vladivostock will occupy the enemy while he is concentrating his forces at Harbin.

BRITISH ACTIVITY.

The papers this morning comment upon the activity which is seen at Woolwich and elsewhere in refitting the navy in preparation for any emergency. It is admitted that the manufacturers of fixed ammunition have been working night shifts since Christmas and that all the surplus obsolete war material on vessels at home and abroad is being replaced as rapidly as possible. Especial interest attaches to the equipment of 60 battleships with the new 12-inch wire steel guns, 450 of which were ordered by the admiralty four years ago at an expense of $22,500,000. These are said to be the most modern and most powerful guns in existence in any navy, and they are capable of throwing an aimed shot accurately a distance of 16,000 yards. Similar reports of military activity are received from other countries. For instance, even Spain is preparing for possibilities. The Spanish Minister of War informed a newspaper man yesterday that he was mobilizing the military forces at his disposal, and said: "Although the Russo-Japanese dispute does not concern us, we must be prepared for all eventualities. Patriotism, however, demands that we keep silent regarding the points Spain must fortify."

According to the Tokio correspondent of the Daily Mail the Emperor of Japan has declared his intention of giving the palace treasures to the Bank of Japan for the purpose of war fund. Other dispatches from Tokio confirm the great success of the internal war loan.

In a dispatch from Nagasaki, the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says all the Russian passengers who were on the captured steamer Japan have been released on parole.

JAP VICTORY CONFIRMED.

London, Feb. 18. — The Japanese legation here has received official advices from Tokio, which confirm the report that the second-class cruiser Boyarin, reported by the Russians to have been destroyed on Saturday last, by striking a mine at Port Arthur, was actually destroyed by the Japanese on Sunday morning. When the Japanese torpedo boat destroyer Asagiri and Hayatori dashed at Port Arthur in the gale and snowstorm that prevailed, the Boyarin was lying in the roads of the harbor. One of the torpedoes launched by the Japanese struck her full amidships, and blew her up. It was not the mine that blew up the Yenisei, but a Whitehead torpedo, and one launched with an aim that was marvelous, considering the conditions of sea and weather existing during the attack. Two hundred of the Boyarin's crew were killed, and the ship sank immediately. The second ship sunk by the Japanese is reported to have been the 10,000-ton volunteer transport Kherson, so large that she could not get into the harbor with any assurance that she would be able to get out again. So she, too, lay in the roads. It is not known how many were killed when the Kherson was destroyed.

PORT ARTHUR FALLS?

Berlin, Feb. 19. — Prices on the bourse today were somewhat stronger during the first hour, but later were affected by a rumor from Paris that Port Arthur had fallen.

A Russian Army Trapped; Alexieff Flies to Harbin

New York, Feb. 18 — A London cable says: Dispatches from both Japan and Russian sources are to the effect that the Russian army on the Liao Tung peninsula has been surrounded by Japanese troops. It is estimated there the 10,000 Russian troops on the peninsula.

Port Arthur and Dalny, situated at the southern end of the peninsula, have been cut off.

Admiral Alexieff, with Gen. Pflug and the entire headquarters staff, has evaded the Japanese lines and removed the headquarters to Harbin, 60 miles north of Port Arthur, at the junction of the Manchurian and East China branches of the Siberian railway.

By military experts this step is regarded as showing that the Russians have given up all hope of holding the peninsula and Port Arthur against a joint attack by the Japanese land and sea forces, which is now expected any moment.

Reports from Tien Tsin say that the land battery of the Russian fortifications on Golden Hill at Port Arthur have been destroyed by the blowing up of the powder magazine. No details have been received, but it is believed the explosion was the result of an accident. A number of Russian troops in the battery at the time are reported to have been killed."

King Edward Disapproves of Treatment Given "Bobs"

London, Feb. 19. — The royal eulogy of Lord Roberts contained in the special army order issued yesterday evening, in which King Edward took leave of Lord Roberts as commander-in-chief of the army, is commented upon as another instance where the tact of his majesty rescued the ministers from an awkward dilemma.

The exceedingly curt manner in which deeply incensed the late commander-in-chief, and this feeling was shared by the public to such an extent that it threatened to lead to a serious attack on the Government in Parliament. The King's first intimation of his disapproval of the war office's treatment was to invite Lord Roberts to Buckingham Palace, where marked attention was shown to the field marshal. This has now been followed by the general army order, which was sent out by the King personally, not, as usually, through the war office.