

ROJESTVENSKY'S FLEET PRACTICALLY ANNIHILATED

Battle for the Mastery of the Sea Was Fought in Straits of Korea—Thirteen Russian Warships, Including Two Battleships, Have Been Sunk—Six Vessels, Including Two Battleships, Captured by Japs—Togo Says the Japanese Squadron Was Undamaged—Admiral Nebogatoff and Three Thousand Other Russians Captured—Official Bulletins from Tokio.

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 dispatch to the state department:

"Nagasaki, May 28.—Japanese sank the Russian battleship Borodino and four other warships and a repair ship."

"Another dispatch reads: 'Tokio, May 27.—The Japanese fleet engaged the Russian fleet in the Straits of Korea, and captured six vessels, including two battleships, and captured Admiral Nebogatoff and three thousand other Russians.'"

REPORTED SINKING OF TWO BATTLESHIPS.

Washington, May 28.—From information which has been received in Washington to-day, it is believed that two of the Russian vessels reported to have been sunk in the Straits of Korea are the Orel and her sister ship, the Borodino. Three other vessels reported sunk are believed to have been destroyers, the remaining one being a repair ship.

A dispatch was received at the American state department to-day, saying that the Japanese government had made the announcement that it had engaged the Russians in the Straits of Korea Saturday and had had success. The reported sinking of the battleships Orel and Borodino is mentioned in a dispatch received at the state department to-day from the consul at Nagasaki.

The belief in naval circles in Washington is that the Japanese were able to free use of their torpedo boats in their attacks on the vessels of Vice-Admiral Rojestyevsky's fleet. The Japanese have a large number of these vessels, and they demonstrated their effectiveness in the operations around Port Arthur. Naval officials here tonight express the opinion that it is 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 Rojestyevsky. The Borodino was four years old, being launched at Grodno 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—10 inches to be exact. They were vessels of 18,770 tons displacement, each with a nominal speed of eighteen knots. Sixteen large guns, besides the secondary 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 1898, the flagship Kuznetsov 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 367 feet by 76 feet, with a draught of 25 feet. The heavy guns were in pairs fore and aft. Forward was mounted a pair of 12-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.

JAPS PURSUING FLEEING RUSSIANS.

London, May 29.—The Tokyo 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 the Japs pursuing.

The Times' Tokyo correspondent says that the telegram, from apparently trustworthy sources, shows that Vice-Admiral Rojestyevsky approached Tsushima Island in the forenoon of May 27th, during a fog, which cleared up in the afternoon, when the Russians were sighted by the Japanese. The battle commenced between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon. There was a strong breeze blowing with a high sea.

A dispatch to the Times says that a private telegram from Chefoo, probably from Russian sources, reports that Rojestyevsky began to force a passage of the Korean Straits Saturday night with 100 lights, in two lines, on each side of the Tsushima Islands. Heavy firing is said to have been heard in the straits between 8:20 and 10:30 o'clock at night; when it

RUSSIAN FLEET DESTROYED

Tokio, May 29, 2:50 p.m.—It is officially announced that Admiral Rojestyevsky's fleet has been practically annihilated.

Twelve warships have been sunk or captured and two transports and two torpedo boat destroyers have been sunk.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Washington, D. C., May 29.—The official announcement of the result of the naval engagement between the Japanese and Russian fleets was received at the state department to-day in the following cablegram from Minister Griscom, dated Tokio, May 29th:

"Admiral Togo has informed his government concerning the fight which took place on Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening.

"According to his report the Japanese fleet under his command destroyed and sunk one battleship of the Borodino class and four other large Russian vessels. Two or three more were captured.

"None of the large Japanese men-of-war received serious injury.

"The battle was still in progress on Sunday.

"A great Japanese victory is announced here as the general result of the engagement, but few details have been received."

JAP SQUADRON UNDAUNTED

Washington, D. C., May 29.—An official telegram from Tokio states that Admiral Togo reports to his government that the total losses sustained by the Russian fleet on Saturday and Sunday were: Two battleships, one coast defence armoured, five cruisers, two special service ships and three destroyers, all sunk.

In addition there were captured two battleships, two coast defence armoured, one special service ship, one destroyer and over two thousand prisoners.

Admiral Togo says that the Japanese squadron was undamaged.

Virinius, chief of the general staff of the navy, to Tsuruko Seio, and remained dosed with them up to a late hour last night, impatiently awaiting information and pending charts.

The only news received by His Majesty from Russian sources was contained in dispatches from Russian agents, who could give nothing but rumors. The only time the Emperor left the members of his cabinet was to attend services in the chapel of the Alexander palace, when the chaplain prayed for Rojestyevsky's success.

JAPS LOST CRUISER AND TEN TORPEDO BOATS.

Tsingtau, May 29.—There is a running naval engagement between the Russian and Japanese fleets in the Straits of Korea, near the islands of Okin.

It is reported that the whole Russian fleet is not participating, all the slower vessels having steamed around Japan.

The Japanese losses so far are stated to be one cruiser and ten torpedo boats.

A telegram from Chinese sources says that in the naval battle in the Straits of Korea Saturday and Sunday, the Russians have lost probably two battleships and two cruisers. This report has not been confirmed.

TOKIO WITHOUT NEWS OF FIGHTING.

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

RUSSIANS ARE ALSO ANXIOUS FOR NEWS.

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 Japanese to furnish authentic news of the fate of Vice-Admiral Rojestyevsky and his fleet, in which the hopes of the Russians are centered. The official disposition is to construe Tokio'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 becomes 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 had impression. The fear was expressed that the battleship sunk might have been Rojestyevsky's flagship, the Kuznetsov, on which the Japanese would undoubtedly concentrate their fire. The sinking of the repair ship Kamchatka, which was filled 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 Rojestyevsky had cleared the strait to the Sea of Japan with no greater loss than that reported by the American consul, the passage would be considered successful, especially if later reports should prove that the Japanese losses were anything like in equal proportions.

Probably no one in Russia disapproved such intense anxiety as the Emperor. Early Sunday morning he summoned Grand Duke Alexis, high admiral; Admiral Avellan, head of the Russian admiralty department, and Admiral

REPAIRED DECK OF STEEL AND FOUR INCHES OF ARMOR OVER HER GUN POSITIONS.

Her armor consisted of six 5.9-inch (cane) guns and ten 1.8-inch guns. She had a complement of 360 officers and men.

The protected cruiser Jentichug was of 3,100 tons displacement and 17,000 indicated horse-power, giving her a speed of 22 knots. She was completed in 1903, and had a protected deck of two inches of steel and carried six 4.7-inch guns, six 1.8-inch, and two 1.4-inch guns. Her crew numbered 340 officers and men.

The repair ship Kamchatka was a most important unit of Admiral Rojestyevsky's fleet. She was understood to have been fitted with every scientific appliance available for the repairs of warships, and was described as being a "floating workshop."

She was launched at the new admiralty yards, St. Petersburg, November, 1892. She was of 7,250 tons displacement, was capable of carrying 3,800 tons of coal, and mounted six small quick-firing guns. She had transport accommodation for 32 officers and 1,000 men.

The Irlessin was probably an auxiliary cruiser, but her name is not given in any of the naval lists available.

The battleship Nicolai is of 9,672 tons displacement and 9,000 indicated horse-power, giving her a speed of about 14 knots. She is sheathed, and although she dates as far back as 1892 was thoroughly overhauled in 1900. She has a compound belt six to four inches thick, has a steel-protected deck 12 inches thick and has six ten inches of armor (compound) over her gun positions. Her armament consists of two 12-inch guns, four 9-inch guns, eight 6-inch guns, and twelve quick-firing guns, in addition to a number of small rapid-firing guns. Her complement is 604 officers and men.

The coast defence ironclad Admiral Senavin is a sister ship of the Admiral Oushakov, sunk by the Japanese in the battle fought in the Straits of Korea. The coast defence ironclad General Admiral Apraxina is of 1,126 tons displacement and 5,675 indicated horse-power, giving her a speed of about 15 knots. She was completed at St. Petersburg in 1898, has an armored belt of Harveyized steel ten inches thick, a steel protected deck four inches thick, and has from seven to eight inches of Krupp steel over her heavy gun positions. The armament of the Apraxina consists of three 10-inch guns, four 6-inch guns, and 14 rapid-firing guns, and a crew numbering 315 officers and men.

ANOTHER BATTLESHIP CAPTURED BY JAPS.

Washington, D. C., May 29.—According to advices received by the navy department from Tokio, the Japanese, in addition to the ships already named, captured the Russian battleship Sesto Veliky.

The Russian flagship was seriously damaged.

NEBOGATOFF IS AMONG THE PRISONERS.

Tokio, May 29.—3 p.m.—Rear-Admiral Nebogatoff, former commander of the fourth division of the Pacific fleet, and recently commander of the information squadron, composed of scouts and merchant ships, was among the prisoners captured by the Japanese.

Vice-Admiral Rojestyevsky appears to have escaped.

VICTORY ABSOLUTE AND OVERWHELMING.

Washington, D. C., May 29.—Mr. Takahira, the Japanese consul here, has received a cablegram from his government relating to the naval engagement of Saturday and Sunday, which he said, while lacking in detail, conveyed the information that the Japanese victory had been "absolute and overwhelming."

EIGHT CAPTAINS OF WARSHIPS DROWNED.

London, May 29.—A dispatch to the London Evening News from Tokio says eight captains of Russian warships were drowned during the naval battle of Saturday in the Straits of Korea.

IS BELIEVED TO FORESHADOW PEACE.

Paris, May 29.—The dispatch of the Associated Press from Tokio officially announcing the Japanese naval success unexpectedly produced a general firmness on the Bourse here owing to the belief that it foreshadows peace.

RESULT WILL LIKELY HASTEN PEACE.

New York, May 29.—Advices received from London and other prominent finan-

cial centres by local bankers were all of the opinion that the Japanese decisive victory will hasten peace.

EFFECT ON THE BELLIN BOURSE.

Berlin, May 29.—Prices on the Bourse to-day generally were somewhat higher owing to London advices and perhaps hopes of peace in the Far East. Russians were 4.10 per cent. lower.

JAP OFFICIALS AWAITING NEWS.

Washington, D. C., May 29, 9 a.m.—Minister Takahira, of Japan, received his first information of the practical annihilation of the Russian fleet in the Strait of Korea from the Associated Press this morning.

When the bulletin containing the Japanese government's official announcement that Admiral Rojestyevsky had lost twelve warships was read to Minister Takahira over the telephone, he carefully repeated the words of the dispatch and then expressed satisfaction at the apparent result of the great conflict.

The minister and other members of the Japanese legation remained in the office nearly all night, eagerly awaiting news of the result of the battle.

Up to this hour no official advices have been received at the legation.

Aside from the press dispatches the only information at the legation was contained in a cable message to the minister indicating that the result of the fight was favorable to the Japanese. Minister Takahira is expecting momentarily definite news of the battle.

It is a matter of general comment that the most definite and reliable information received up to the time the official announcement was sent out from Tokio came by way of Washington.

The receipt of the Tokio official bulletin announcing that Rojestyevsky's fleet was practically annihilated was a crushing blow to the minister's officials, destroying the hope to which many of them had clung that the silence of the Japanese government might be favorably construed.

The wording of the official dispatch was interpreted to mean that Admiral Togo had succeeded in barring and holding the entrance of the Straits of Korea against the Russian fleet.

Some of the foreign press dispatches were very confusing, but everything seems to indicate that Togo delivered a series of desperate torpedo attacks during Saturday night, with the support of his heavy ships. The reported sinking of so many ships, it is believed, might also be partially due to mines sown ahead of the advancing Russian column. The belief is also strengthened that Rojestyevsky was forced in order to secure homogeneity in speed and fighting power to divide his fleet into two divisions, passing the Straits of Korea, the other going round Japan.

But the Straits of Korea division evidently included the pick of the Russian fleet, the Borodino and Orel being two of their best battleships.

It is possible that Admiral Rojestyevsky transferred his flag from the battleship Kuznetsov to the Borodino, or Orel before the fight in order to prevent the concentration of the Japanese fire on his own ship.

Capt. Soberevitch of the Borodino, and Capt. Ignatich of the Orel, are regarded as extremely capable officers.

Owing to the decision of the newspapers to suspend Monday's publication, daily telegrams are being printed on fly sheets.

The Novoye Vremya alone comments editorially on the battle. Under the caption "The hour of fate has struck," the paper says, "Russia has been reproached with putting too much faith in God, sending too many Ikons to war and not enough men. The results in now, and in the language of the American, it is the hour of 'The men behind the guns.' Russians will be patient until the full results are known."

Black pessimism reigns among the public.

WARSHIPS SIGHTED OFF BAY OF MANILA.

Manila, May 29.—Five warships were sighted off Corregidor island in the entrance to the bay of Manila, this morning, headed south. It is believed that they were Japanese vessels.

On Saturday two transports were sighted 120 miles west of the Banasec Strait by the British steamer Yuensang.

CHARGES OF VIOLATION OF NEUTRALITY.

New York, May 29.—The Chinese authorities in Manila have received from Russia, a positive note of the intention to march troops into Mongolia, cables the Pekin correspondent of the Herald.

On the other hand, the foreign office is deluged with charges and countercharges relative to alleged breaches of neutrality by both Russia and Japan.

THE SINKING OF AMERICAN STEAMER.

Washington, D. C., May 29.—It was stated at the state department that no further steps had been taken regarding the sinking of the American vessel by the Russian fleet.

The sailing instructions yesterday to Minister Meyer to make inquiry of the Russian government regarding the facts is therefore the only representation made to the Russian government, furthering has been received about the incident.

The Post to-day says that, acting on instructions of President Roosevelt, Acting Secretary of State Loomis has telegraphed Minister Griscom at Tokio to inquire into the sinking of an American merchant steamer by the Russian fleet off Formosa.

DECISION OF COURT EXPECTED THIS WEEK.

St. Petersburg, May 28.—The written opinion of the Imperial Admiralty court in the case of the cotton found on the British steamer Calchas, captured by the Vladivostok squadron, is expected to be handed down some time this week.

NO SIGN OF SETTLEMENT.

Labor Unions of Chicago Apparently Believe Fight Will Be a Long One.

Chicago, May 28.—Nothing developed to-day to indicate an early settlement of the teamsters' strike, which has been in progress for nearly two months. That the labor unions are of the belief that the fight will be a long one was demonstrated at the meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor to-day, when arrangements were made for holding a strike demonstration on July 6th. At the meeting to-day the strike situation was discussed in all its details and the sentiment was that the teamsters should continue the fight until the seven express companies offer some sort of a compromise.

With over seven thousand policemen and deputies detailed on duty, the employers declare that during the present week they will be able to demonstrate to the strikers that any further continuation of the fight will be sufficient to the teamsters' union. To-day was one of the quietest since the strike began.

May Strike in Sympathy.

New York, May 28.—Twenty-three locals of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, representing 25,000 drivers, had meetings to-day to discuss the question of a sympathetic strike in New York City to assist the strikers in Chicago. According to several of the delegates, the strike may be ordered here within forty-eight hours. The meetings were held with much secrecy.

President Hoffman, of the dry goods teamsters, said after the meeting: "For some weeks we have been contributing \$1,000 a day to the Chicago strikers. If a request for a sympathetic strike is made, it will be laid before the executive council of the New York locals."

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Toledo, Ohio, May 2.—Dr. A. Greer, a travelling medicine man, yesterday shot and instantly killed Mrs. Alta Tipples at her home in Weston, Ohio, and then fired one shot into his own head.

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