

40TH YEAR. NO. 17129

THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1904.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

RUSSIANS AND JAPANESE CLASH IN TERRIFIC LAND FIGHT IN ATTEMPT BY THE LATTER TO HEM IN PORT ARTHUR

THREE RUSSIAN WARSHIPS DYNAMITED OFF JAP COAST

The Fleet From Vladivostok Were About to Attack Hakodate—Hit Submarine Mines.

THE BRITISH SHIP SEIZED BY RUSSIA RELEASED

New York, Feb. 15. — Official confirmation is given in Tokyo, according to a cablegram to the World, of the report that three of the four Russian warships from Vladivostok, which entered the Tsushima Straits to attack Hakodate, were blown up by mines on the night of Feb. 13 while attempting to pass the straits.

A cablegram from London says the later advice are that four Russian warships have been sighted in Tsushima Straits since the report went out that three of the cruisers had been sunk or disabled.

The Foo, Feb. 15. — A reliable report says that three Russian torpedo boats have been sunk by guns from the forts. They were mistaken for Japanese vessels.

CHINA IS NEUTRAL.

An Official Declaration Issued at Peking.

Peking, Feb. 15. — The edict issued by the Government of China, declaring its neutrality in the Russo-Japanese difficulty, announces that the war between these countries has broken out and that since seeing these nations are friendly China has decided to preserve order and neutrality and to preserve order and neutrality and to preserve order and neutrality.

THE FIGHT AT CHEMULPO.

How the Russians Went Out to Certain Defeat.

Seoul, Feb. 12. — The following account of the battle off Chemulpo, which resulted in the loss of the Russian cruiser Variag and the gunboat Korietz, has reached here:

During the night of Feb. 8, the Japanese landed 15,000 men at Chemulpo, and on the morning of the 9th three Japanese cruisers, four gunboats and eight torpedo boats entered the harbor. The command of Admiral Uriu, approached the harbor, but did not enter. The Korietz and Variag were lying in the harbor. The Japanese admiral gave them until noon to come out. Both Russian ships refused to do so. All Russian ships in the harbor were notified by Admiral Uriu to get out of the firing line. There was in the harbor also the British ship Talbot, the French cruiser Pascal, the Italian cruiser Elba and the United States gunboat Vicksburg. The Japanese fleet, under the command of Admiral Uriu, approached the harbor, but did not enter. The Korietz and Variag were lying in the harbor. The Japanese admiral gave them until noon to come out. Both Russian ships refused to do so. All Russian ships in the harbor were notified by Admiral Uriu to get out of the firing line. There was in the harbor also the British ship Talbot, the French cruiser Pascal, the Italian cruiser Elba and the United States gunboat Vicksburg.

BRITISH SHIP RELEASED.

Russia Explains to Britain the Seizure at Port Arthur.

Yingkow, Sunday, Feb. 14. — The administrative authorities at Port Arthur, formally notified the American and British consuls of the release of the neutral ships which had been seized. Both consuls had asked for explanations. The civil administration of Port Arthur has intimated that Viceoy Alexieff will not receive the consuls in matters relating to Port Arthur and Manchuria.

In answer to the demand of the British Government for an explanation of why the British ships were held up by the Russians at Port Arthur, Viceoy Alexieff replied that the vessels were detained because they had Japanese on board.

The shots fired at the British steamer Fu Ping by the Russian guardship at Port Arthur, as the Fu Ping was leaving that port last night, were, the viceoy says, due to a misunderstanding on the part of the officers of the guardship.

THE CAR IN TEARS.

Was Not Informed of War's Imminence Until Last Moment.

London, Feb. 15. — The Telegraph's St. Petersburg correspondent says: Until the last moment nobody in St. Petersburg knew that war was imminent. At least of all the Czar. On Thursday, before the rupture, the Czar was at the Grand Duke Nicholas at dinner. During the dinner the Czar remarked: "All will be well and water will be calm. There is no danger of war. I begin my reign in peace, and shall continue and end in peace and water will be calm."

On Friday there were private theatricals in the palace. All the court and diplomats were present. The Czar was unusually amiable.

The Japanese minister did not have the slightest thought of war at that moment. The Japanese minister to London and Lord Lansdowne were conferring on the imminence of hostilities while two financiers in London were warned the war cloud was about to burst, but they had not one man in Russia or the Orient to warn him of what was coming.

On the contrary, private officials reported that Japan was bluffing.

It was 2 a.m. when the news of the rupture of the peace came. The Czar, even then he was assured that it did not mean war.

The Czar, misled by officials, attended the opera on Monday night.

While the Czar was in the box Alexieff's telegram was received in the palace informing him of the Japanese attack.

In order not to spoil the Czar's enjoyment the officials did not deliver the message in the opera.

On returning home the Czar received the news. He indignantly upbraided the officials for withholding the telegram. On Tuesday morning, however, calling in the palace, the Czar found the Russian's fateful mistake was the conviction, fostered by Admiral Alexieff, that Japan would not venture.

THE MONGOLIA SAFE.

The Russian mail steamer Mongolia, which sailed from Shanghai, Feb. 7, has arrived safely at Dalny. It was reported the ship had been captured by Japanese. A private telegram received at Shanghai says that Viceoy Alexieff has gone to Harbin, Manchuria.

RUSSIA IN A FRENZY.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 13. — For the first time since the beginning of hostilities in the far east, the Government tonight gave the Russian newspapers permission to publish the accounts received from abroad of naval engagements off Chemulpo, in which the warships Variag and Korietz were destroyed. The war fever, which has been aroused here and apparently over the empire, or at least all over European Russia, in a single week, is truly remarkable.

The demonstrations here have been almost continuous for three days and

SUMMARY OF THE WAR.

Many conflicting and unofficial reports of battles by land and sea continue to arrive from the Far East. The little that is definite and authentic, however, shows the advantage to be still with the Japs. There is now no doubt but that the fights at Chemulpo and Port Arthur were great victories for the Mikado, although reports vary as to the number of ships destroyed. On the other hand the Russians claim the Japs were repulsed with heavy losses in an attempt to land troops in the vicinity of Port Arthur. Dispatches from Tokio say no attempt has been made to land men. As it is undoubtedly the plan of the Japs to hem in Port Arthur by land as well as sea, it is probable there has been fighting of some description. The Japanese and Russian armies have met in northern Korea, close to the Yalu River, the former's outposts being driven in. Eighty officers and men have been made prisoners. A big battle is expected hourly as the Mikado's main army, 60,000 strong, is closing in on the Russians. The latter are believed to have 80,000 men in line. Three out of four Russian warships, while going to attack the town of Hakodate, ran foul of submarine mines and were destroyed. Russia explains satisfactorily firing on a British ship which has since been released. An American consul charges the Russians with brutal treatment of Japanese refugees among whom were many women. The Vladivostok fleet is thought to be at sea and ready for a descent on the Japanese coast. The ships purchased by the Mikado from Chili are due at Nagasaki any hour and will greatly add to the strength of the Japanese navy. The British Government says Russia has not asked for permission to pass the Dardanelles.

First General Engagement of Armies Results in a Victory for Forces of Czar

Under Heavy Fire From Fleet Mikado's Men Attempted a Landing in the Vicinity of the City But Were Repulsed With Heavy Losses—Jap Warships Create Great Havoc Along the Coasts.

Che Foo, Feb. 15. — Dispatches received here state that the Japanese and Russian land forces have clashed in a terrific fight near Port Arthur in the attempt of the Japanese to land troops and hem in Port Arthur both by land and sea.

The reports thus far received are fragmentary, but show beyond all doubt that the Japanese and Russian land forces have fought their first general engagement.

The object of the Japanese in making the landing at Port Arthur was to precipitate a naval battle in the open. It is reported that the Japanese fleet, which was made at Beizero, 80 miles north of Port Arthur, Russians claim that the Japanese were repulsed with heavy losses.

It is held by Japanese authorities that this was but a feint, however. The Russians report the second landing attempt at Beizero, 80 miles north of Port Arthur, Russians claim that the Japanese were repulsed with heavy losses.

While this work was on the Japanese fleet sought to draw out the Russian ships at Port Arthur and precipitate a naval battle in the open. It is stated that the commander of the Japanese fleet hoped that even in the event of the failure in the landing movement the Russian fleet might be drawn out from under Port Arthur's guns and the natural defense afforded by the harbor there.

With the first attempt at landing at this point, just north of Port Arthur the Russian shore batteries opened a terrific fire on the advance landing parties.

The guns of the Japanese fleet created great havoc along the coast, and are reported as having inflicted extreme damage on the forts and shore defenses.

The Japanese troops reached the shore and there were forced to face a withering fire from the Russian fort and field batteries which had been wheeled into position. Under this rain of shells the Japanese troops were forced to return to their boats, leaving a large number of dead and wounded on the field.

Japanese warships are guarding Japan's coast, fearing an attempt on the part of the Russians to land troops from Vladivostok. Every watch is being kept for the four Russian cruisers of the Vladivostok fleet.

It is reported that a great ice crush of American manufacture is kept at this Manchurian port and is able to break a passage through the ice and allow exit of these warships from Vladivostok's harbor.

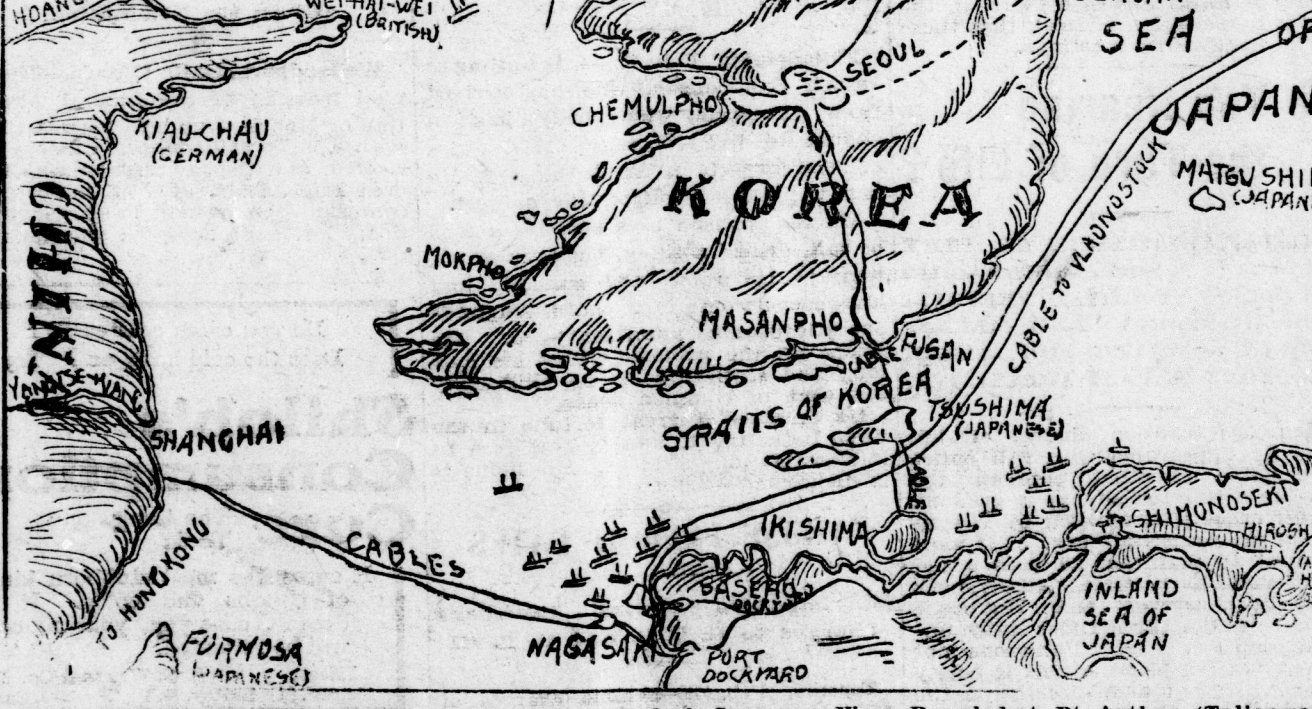


Chart Showing Points at Which Rival Armies Clashed—Japanese Were Repulsed at Pt. Arthur (Taishan) and Their Outposts Driven Back Near the Yalu River.

SENATOR HANNA DYING

Members of His Family Have Been Summoned to the Bedside.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.—Senator Hanna is sinking fast. All the members of his family have been summoned to the bedside. The end is near.

The following official bulletin was issued at 8 a.m.: "Since 2 a.m. Senator Hanna has slowly lost ground, and no longer is able to take nourishment by the mouth. His temperature is not high, but his pulse has become more rapid and weaker, and his respirations have increased in frequency. (Signed) Riker, Osler, Carter."

8:30 a.m.—Mr. Hanna is now being kept alive only by the use of hypodermics and oxygen. There is no natural reaction. He is sinking rapidly.

On account of the exhausting effects of an examination by the physicians the senator's temperature, pulse and respirations have not been read for several hours. It is noticeable, however, that he is growing weaker continually. He has been unconscious since 3 a.m. and practically so for 48 hours.

KAISER IN GOOD HEALTH.

Berlin, Feb. 15. — The rumors circulated regarding the alleged illness of Emperor William are absolutely unfounded. His majesty went out walking this morning, visited Chancellor Von Buelow and transacted the usual state business.

WEATHER BULLETIN

TOMORROW—FAIR AND VERY COLD.

London, Monday, Feb. 15. Sun rises, 7:13 a.m. Moon rises, 6:38 a.m. Sun sets, 5:46 p.m. Moon sets, 5:18 p.m.

Toronto, Feb. 14—8 p.m. Light snow has fallen today in Ontario and Western Quebec, while elsewhere in Canada the weather has been fair. Some what higher temperatures have been recorded in Ontario, but a change to colder conditions is again indicated. In the Northwest Territories and Manitoba it has been very cold, and maximum temperatures ranged between 4 and 20 below zero.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 20 below—20 below; Victoria, 8; 42; Calgary, 21 below—1 below; Qu'Appelle, 21 below—15 below; Winnipeg, 22 below—16 below; Port Arthur, 2—28; Toronto, 15—32; Ottawa, 2—18; Montreal, zero—22; Quebec, 10—30; Halifax, 4—24.

FORECASTS.

Monday, Feb. 15—8 a.m. Today—Strong northwesterly winds; fair and becoming much colder again. Tuesday—Fair and decidedly cold.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	-8	-18	Clear
Winnipeg	-26	-28	Clear
Port Arthur	-6	-6	Clear
Toronto	-6	-6	Cloudy
Ottawa	-16	-16	Cloudy
Montreal	-20	-20	Snow
Quebec	-16	-16	Snow
Father Point	-12	-4	Snow

WIDOW SUES FOR DAMAGES

Action by Mrs. Cavanagh Against McGillivray and W. Williams.

A writ has been issued against the Townships of West Williams and McGillivray for unstated damages in consequence of the death of the late Daniel Cavanagh, who was killed on the 16th of December by falling through the Seber bridge on the townline between these two townships.

Action is taken at the instance of the widow, and the writ was issued by Mr. Kenneth Goodman, of Parkhill. While the suit is for unstated damages it is to be tried in the high court.

CAPE COLONY ELECTIONS

The Progressives Win Over the Afrikaner Bond Party.

Cape Town, Feb. 15. — The parliamentary elections just held in Cape Colony have resulted in a Progressive majority of five over the Afrikaner Bond.

The final figures are: Progressives, 50; and Bond, 45 members.

SHARP FIGHT AT THE YALU; JAP OUTPOSTS DRIVEN BACK

A Cable to London Says 80 Jap Officers and Men Were Made Prisoners in This Fight.

THE MIKADO'S MAIN ARMY IS NOW CLOSING IN

New York, Feb. 14. — A special cable from London, dated Feb. 13, says: News was received here this evening of a battle between the Russian and Japanese forces along the Yalu River. The Russian forces, moving south from the Yalu, encountered the outposts of the Japanese army on their march north from Ping Yang. A sharp encounter followed, in which 80 officers and men of the Japanese army were made prisoners. The main army of the Japanese is now closing in, and within a few hours, it is expected, that two large corps will be plunged into a terrific battle upon which may turn the outcome of the war. The Japanese for some time have had a large army in Northern Korea, which has been steadily increased by reinforcements. The Russian army along the Yalu River is the largest the Czar has in the east, numbering 80,000 men. The Japanese have 80,000 men in Korea, 60,000 of whom are north of Seoul, and are either near the scene of battle or are moving thither. In both armies are cavalry and light artillery, but the Russians have decidedly the better of it in both these branches.

HERE'S ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

St. Petersburg Says Sea Fight Was in Favor of Russians.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15. — The first unofficial account of the battle at Port Arthur of Tuesday last has been received in a telegram dated Feb. 14. It is as follows: "At half-past 11 o'clock this morning a Japanese squadron of fifteen vessels began the bombardment of Port Arthur. Our squadron and fortresses replied, and the battle lasted 40 minutes. The Japanese squadron could not stand the well-placed fire of our fleet, and particularly of the forts, and began a rapid retreat. The Japanese flagships were seriously damaged, and, according to the testimony of an eye witness, five other Japanese ships were considerably injured. Boats report two Japanese ships sank at sea."

"Our losses amount were two officers wounded, one slightly and one seriously; six men killed and fifty-four wounded. In the forts two men were slightly wounded. The bombardment of the fortress and town did no damage, but frightened the populace. At intervals during the night firing was heard from the forts."

The dispatch adds that the temper of the army and navy is excellent, and that the bulletins circulated by the Japanese have begun to tranquilize the people. No attempts have been made by the Japanese to land on the Kwang Tung Peninsula.

The repairs to the ships damaged by the torpedo attack are proceeding rapidly.

ELEVEN WERE CRIPPLED.

How the Japs Smashed Up the Russian Fleet.

Che Foo, Feb. 15. — The steamer Wenchow, arriving from Port Arthur, reports that eleven Russian ships were struck in Wednesday's engagement. It is stated that cruiser Askold with a big hole at the waterline, has been towed into the inner basin, and disabled.

The battleship Stosubol has a shell hole just above the waterline and is useless in rough weather.

The cruiser Novik has a hole in her afterport side. The battleship Retvizan is on the beach and her bottom has fallen out. The cruiser Pallada was torpedoed about the engine room. The battleship Carevitch, which also was torpedoed, has docked. The whole fleet has been taken into the inner basin, and Port Arthur is depending for protection on her forts which have been reinforced. There is frequent firing of Russian guns, presumably drawn by these torpedo boats. Firing was heard at midnight Feb. 11 at intervals, also on the night of the 12th and 13th. On Feb. 14 the firing continued until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. An eye witness claims to have seen eighteen dead landed from the Russian ships Wednesday.

It is understood that Admiral Stark has been reduced for his failure to repulse the Japanese attack.

The cruiser Novik was the only vessel to do effective work. She gave notice to the Japanese that they were not to use their fleet, but to depend on the land forces. Eleven ships will, it is stated, have to be repaired before they can take the aggressive on sea.

The captain of the Wenchow reports that he was held at Port Arthur until all the Japanese in the vicinity were gathered and placed aboard Japanese were brought from points as far away as Harbin. A few Japanese are left in Manchuria. The refugees left their homes and stores, in many cases losing thousands of dollars.

Several Japanese have been arrested on the charge of having in their possession maps and charts.

Refugees who go to Japan can give the Government valuable information.

FRANCE AND SIAM

A New Treaty Gives Former Some Impartial Territory.

Paris, Feb. 15. — The danger of a conflict between France and Siam has been dissipated by the signing by Foreign Minister Delcasse and the Siam minister to France of a treaty delimiting the frontier between Siam and Cambodia, a French protectorate in Indo-China. This treaty secures substantial territorial and economical advantages to France, and an increase of her political influence in the country. One article of the convention assures freedom of Siam to the trade of all nations.

NOT FOR MR. BRIGGS.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 15. — The announcement that Hon. S. C. Briggs is to be appointed solicitor to the Ontario treasury in succession to Frank Ford, resigned, is officially denied.