



TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1905.

VOL. 35.

NO. 18

ROJESTVENSKY'S IN STRAITS OF KOREA

Vessels Sighted Off The Taushima Islands --Russians Convinced Admiral Will Do His Best To Find Togo.

Advices from various sources to-day point to the probability of an early battle between the Russian and Japanese fleets.

The Tokio dispatch reporting the presence of Russian warships off the Taushima Islands, in the Straits of Korea, indicates that the Russian admiral has divided his fleet, as authentic dispatches to the Associated Press, confirmed by advices received in Washington, show that some Russian vessels are still near Shanghai.

It is probable that Rojestvensky has detached his auxiliaries, supply vessels, unarmoured ships and others, unfit for battle, and proceeded northward with his main fighting force.

Whether it is his intention to force Togo to accept battle, or whether his object is to reach Vladivostok, the dispatches do not make clear.

Togo's whereabouts is not known.

RUSSIANS IN THE STRAITS OF KOREA.

Tokio, May 27.—4:30 p.m.—Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet has been sighted off Taushima Islands, in the Straits of Korea.

ANOTHER REPORT REGARDING FLEET.

Nagasaki, May 27.—Noon.—It is reported that a Russian fleet is passing the island in the Straits of Korea.

RUSSIAN CAPITAL ANXIOUS FOR NEWS.

St. Petersburg, May 27.—The tension in naval circles is very great. News of the meeting of the Russian and Japan fleets is expected hourly.

The dispatch from Tokio to the Associated Press, saying it was rumored that the fleets have been already engaged in the Straits of Korea, aroused intense interest at the admiralty, but nothing confirmatory had been received there up to the time this dispatch was filed. The majority of the officers were inclined to doubt the accuracy of the report, but believing that Rojestvensky, with his fighting ships, is heading northward for an eastern port of Japan.

Others, on the contrary, considered it quite likely that Rojestvensky, after passing out into the Pacific, doubled back through the Luchuan Islands, and will take the straightest course for Vladivostok.

Rojestvensky, they point out, is a believer in strategy and mystification, and his cruise in the Pacific may have been only to avoid the danger of mines and torpedo boat attacks in the shallow waters of the Straits of Formosa, but to deceive the Japanese into the belief that his objective was either the Tangara or Luchuan Straits, while in reality he changed his course and headed for the Straits of Korea.

As a matter of fact Rojestvensky seems to have mystified his own admiralty as much as the Japanese. Upon one hand the appearance of Russian colliers and converted cruisers off Shanghai is taken as confirmatory of the theory that Rojestvensky's fighting division headed northward after circling the island of Formosa, and on the other the presence of colliers and converted cruisers off Shanghai is regarded as a blind to confuse the Japanese.

The orders sent to Japan merchant vessels at Chefoo to await instructions before sailing are considered to strengthen the former view, indicating that Admiral Togo received information that Rojestvensky had altered his course, and thereupon ordered all the Japanese merchantmen to remain in port.

ADMIRALTY DEPENDS ON JAPS FOR NEWS.

St. Petersburg, May 27, 5:25 p.m.—During the afternoon the newspapers got out extras, which were eagerly purchased by the holiday crowds in the parks and on the boulevards, and the admiralty was soon besieged with inquiries for news. But the staff had none to offer.

It was reiterated to the Associated Press at 5 o'clock that the admiralty had received nothing beyond the news dispatches from Tokio, explaining that the staff here is entirely dependent on the Japanese advices and can expect nothing from their own sources here until Admiral Rojestvensky reached Vladivostok.

There was no concealment of the pleasure, however, with which the officers read the definite statement from

Tokio that Rojestvensky was off the Taushima Islands.

RUMOR PUTS RUSSIANS IN GOOD HUMOR.

St. Petersburg, May 27.—3 p.m.—There was great rejoicing here on receipt of the Associated Press dispatch from Tokio announcing that Admiral Rojestvensky had been sighted off the Taushima Islands, in the Straits of Korea.

Many people believe Rojestvensky has already met and defeated Admiral Togo, while others hold that he has eluded the Japanese admiral, and that it will be a stern chase for Vladivostok.

The fact that to-day is a general holiday, the anniversary of the Emperor's coronation, is considered a happy augury. The city, which is gaily decorated, is full of rumors of a Russian victory.

FIGHT MAY OCCUR WITHIN FEW DAYS.

New York, May 27.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times cables under date of Friday:

As the result of information received at the admiralty a high official expresses the belief that a naval battle is bound to occur within three or four days. Whether the information comes he cannot divulge.

Naval circles generally are convinced that Rojestvensky will do his best to find Togo. This belief is based chiefly upon the knowledge of Rojestvensky's personal characteristics.

It is authorized to deny the story of a Russian fleet in the Straits of Korea.

A LARGE FLEET SIGHTED ON WEDNESDAY.

Hongkong, May 27.—The British steamer Saint Klida, which arrived here to-day from Kuchino, Japan, reports having sighted early in the morning of Wednesday, May 24th, 45 Russian vessels, including battleships, cruisers, torpedo boat destroyers, colliers, a hospital ship and tug, 140 miles south southeast of the Saddle Islands. The Russians were stationary when first sighted, and most of the colliers were half empty.

Subsequent Russian vessels steamed away, heading in a northwesterly direction.

The Saddle Islands are a group of 25 small islands, situated about 60 miles southeast of Shanghai.

SHIPS REPORTED NEAR SADDLE ISLANDS.

Washington, May 27.—Private advices received here of an entirely authentic nature report that more than twenty-one Russian vessels, including three battleships and three cruisers, are off Saddle Islands, which are 60 or 70 miles southeast of Shanghai.

Additional information reports that it is rumored a naval engagement has taken place.

FLEET STEAMED TOWARDS STRAITS.

Saigon, Cochinchina, May 27.—Returning colliers report that Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet arrived off the Saddle Islands on May 24th and proceeded in the direction of the Straits of Korea.

COLLISION BETWEEN DETACHED PARTIES.

Tokio, May 27.—At 4:55 p.m.—Imperial headquarters made the following announcement:

"On May 25th our cavalry in driving in a body of Russian cavalry northeast occupied Hsueniencheng, 18 miles north of Changru.

"Otherwise with the exception of small collisions between detached parties on both sides the situation is unchanged."

oman road, where they burned a store depot and destroyed the telegraph for a considerable distance. Large bands of Chinese bandits encountered by the detachment were partly annihilated and partly dispersed.

"On May 19th the main body arrived at the Fakoman-Shifuzay road and found the Russians attacked and annihilated two Japanese companies and captured another company with all of its officers and ten machine guns.

The Russians seized a road on the right bank of the Liao river and captured near Shifuzay a transport train seven versts (four and two-fifths miles) long with rice, timed food and fruit, destroyed the telegraph line and took several prisoners and 100 horses.

"On the return journey the Russians dispersed several bands of Chinese bandits. The prisoners taken number five officers and 224 men."

THE ACTIVITY OF RUSSIAN CAVALRY.

St. Petersburg, May 27.—3:30 a.m.—The news of the successful raid by Lieut. Gen. Mitshenko, as told in a dispatch from Lieut. Gen. Linievitch to the Emperor, is a source of satisfaction to the military authorities, not only because of the resultant damage to Japanese supplies and communication, but owing to the fact that it is a manifestation of the activity of the Russian cavalry and an indication that growth of green fodder will permit the employment of the Russian superiority in horse to greater advantage in the preliminary, in the coming battle than was the case at Mukden.

RUSSIANS IGNORE CHINESE ORDERS.

Shanghai, May 27.—The Russian war vessels which were off Saddle Islands left last night. The Chinese authorities ordered the removal of the Russian war vessels, which were anchored off Woo Sung, to leave within 24 hours. The Russians have thus far entirely ignored the order.

RUMORS OF FIGHT IN KOREAN STRAITS.

Tokio, May 27.—It is rumored here that the Japanese and Russian fleets, under Admiral Togo and Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky, have engaged in the Korean Straits.

RUSSIANS DO NOT CREDIT REPORT.

St. Petersburg, May 27.—3:30 a.m.—While a firing raid of one or two commerce destroyers in the eastern sea is admitted as a possibility by the naval authorities here, these authorities are loath to believe that any engagement between the Russian squadrons in an important sense has taken place, as reported from Shanghai. They prefer to assume that the unspecified Russian ships reported to be outside of Shanghai, like the six which entered the port of Woo Sung, are units of the transport fleet without special fighting value, and that perhaps they have been sent thither to confuse the scent for Togo's benefit.

A prominent naval strategist said to the Associated Press: "I don't know where Rojestvensky is at present, but wherever he is you may be sure that he has his entire fighting force well bunched, and is not weakening his main squadron in the face of the enemy. I am inclined to believe that he is pursuing a course northward outside Japan."

"The ships whose arrival near Shanghai have been reported, are not even classed as so-called converted cruisers, but vessels which, flying the commercial flag, were usable for transport purposes when passing Singapore, and the myrtle 17 vessels reported as being outside of Shanghai are probably colliers with perhaps a war vessel or two.

"I should not be surprised, however, if Rojestvensky detached several speedy liners, now converted cruisers, for a raid to the northward into the Luchuan Islands in order to paralyze Japanese commerce and embarrass Togo while the Russian fighting squadrons are pursuing its main objective."

The Russ this morning prints an interview with Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's physician who claims that the admiral's kidney trouble was cured before he left for the Far East. In the interview letters are quoted from a cousin of Rojestvensky, who is a nurse on the hospital ship Orel, and who dined with the admiral every week, to the effect that that officer was in good health. The admiral himself wrote from Saigon, saying that he was fatigued, but in no other way indicating that he was suffering from depression or from any mental breakdown.

Tsingtau, May 27.—The whole Russian fleet is assembled near Woo Sung, and the German squadron at Tsingtau is preparing for eventualities.

The report from Tsingtau, the port of the German concession at Kiaochow, Shantung peninsula, is all probability a magnifying version of the dispatch to the Associated Press from Shanghai yesterday saying that it was credibly reported there that certain Russian vessels had arrived at the mouth of the Yangtze river yesterday afternoon. Both Woo Sung and Shanghai are situated on branches of the Yangtze river.

No news has been received from any other point tending to alter the facts published by the Associated Press yesterday from Shanghai, and there is no doubt

that if the Russian fleet really had assembled off Woo Sung such important news would have been flashed from Shanghai which would have been only eleven miles south of that place.

JAPANESE SHIPS REMAIN AT CHEFOO.

Chefoo, May 26, 3 p.m.—All Japanese steamers arriving at this port to-day have been held here pending further instructions.

ATTEMPT TO DESTROY LINE AND BRIDGE.

St. Petersburg, May 26, 1:15 p.m.—Nothing further has been heard of the reported naval battle south of the island of Formosa.

The daring attempt of the Japanese on May 23rd to cut the railroad and blow up the bridge over a tributary of the Ting Liao, 20 miles south of the Russian main line from Kuanchengtau, about 30 miles northeast of Gushu pass to Kirin, which are now connected by a field railroad, has striking resemblance to the blowing up of the bridge over the Kankai river, 160 miles north of Mukden, by Major Nanganuma, of the Japanese army, just before Lieut. Marshal Oyama's advance against General Kouroupatkin at Mukden.

Another parallel of the raid of May 23rd occurred while Gen. Kennenkauff's cavalry recently was working around the left shore of Pakoniam just as Nanganuma's exploit coincided with General Mitshenko's raid on Newchwang in September last. According to reports the raid of May 23rd was launched from Mongolia.

JAPANESE TACTICS PUZZLE RUSSIANS.

Gushu Pass (100 miles north of the Pass), May 26.—The Japanese tactics are puzzling. They give way at the slightest pressure against their centre on both the railroad and the Mandarin road. The Chinese explain the retirement is due to trouble among the reserves, some of whom, they say, are almost in a state of revolt because the government has not kept its promise to return them to Japan.

The retirement of the Japanese centre is interpreted by some of the Russian officers as a postponement of Field Marshal Oyama's offensive movement, because of the fact that the Japanese centre is not shored up by a counter-attack.

In order to prevent straggling over the question of reward or censure arising from reports forwarded by the corps commanders through the army corps commanders, General Linievitch, in an order of the day, has directed that copies of the original reports of all encounters and individual exploits be transmitted to his headquarters, and that brief reports through the ordinary channels.

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE OF JAPAN.

Tokio, May 26.—Baron Komura, minister of foreign affairs, Baron Sone, minister of finance, and Baron Shibusawa, president of the clearing house association to-day.

Baron Komura said that the financial capability of Japan had completely surprised the world. "It was given that Japan was showing a financial and productive ability as well as strength on the battlefield. The war, he said, would last long, and the trustworthiness of the nation after the war was ended before the country. He expected, he said further, that the commercial interests would develop and extend commerce.

He also expected the introduction of foreign capital and he counselled his hearers to facilitate the introduction by inspiring foreign capitalists with confidence in the country.

Baron Sone thanked the financial and commercial interests for their great assistance in financing the war.

Baron Shibusawa said that the commerce and productive capacity of the nation was growing despite the war. The bank clearings, he said, for 1904 exceeded two billion dollars, which amount was unprecedented. He expected that the bank clearings for 1905 would exceed two and one-half billions.

COSSACKS SUFFERED DURING EXPEDITION.

St. Petersburg, May 24.—The news from the front continues to point to the proximity of fighting on a large scale. Lieut. General Linievitch sent Lieut. General Rensenkauff's Cossacks on a daring expedition across the Shillysaya Oyama's left. Rensenkauff succeeded in getting to the rear of the Japanese, but paid dearly, his Cossacks being badly cut up.

Many believe that Gen. Linievitch is trying to take the offensive out of Marshal Oyama's hands. The latter has made all preparations against the possible interruption of his communication and the cessation of transport service from Japanese ports. All reinforcements available and immense quantities of provisions and munitions have been landed at Yingchow and Dahn since Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky appeared in the Straits of Malacca.

Newspaper correspondents at the front are prevented by censor from telegraphing any intelligent view of the situation, and this has always been the precursor of important developments.

The Japanese have taken great precautions, as did Gen. Kouroupatkin, to prevent his plans leaking out.

BARON ALPHONSE ROTHSCHILD DEAD

EMINENT FINANCIER PASSED AWAY IN PARIS

Was Head of French Branch of Banking House—Well Known for Lavish Charities.

Paris, May 26.—Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, head of the French branch of the banking house bearing the name of Rothschild, and governor of the Bank of France, died this morning at 6:30 from acute bronchitis, aggravated by gout.

The eminent financier had been sinking slowly for many days, but there was no apprehension that his death was imminent. He first took to his bed two weeks ago. Several rallies gave promise of his recovery. Two days ago the Baron began to fall rapidly, and his condition assumed a disquieting form. Although he kept up an animated conversation with members of his family and the old servants, the patient became very weak, and he had not entered upon a convalescence and passed away peacefully this morning surrounded by his family.

The deceased Baron leaves two children, Baron Edouard and Baroness Beatrice. He has two surviving brothers, Baron Gustav and Baron Edmond. Baron Gustav has a son Robert and two daughters, one of whom married Sir Edward Sassoon, a great friend of King Edward, and the other married Baron Lambert de Rothschild, of Brussels, who has long represented the Rothschild interest at the capital, and who was succeeded by Baron Alphonse as head of the Paris banking house.

The announcement of the Baron's death caused wide-spread regret, for besides his position in the financial world, Baron Alphonse was known for his lavish charities, one of the latest being the gift of \$2,000,000 for the erection of workmen's habitations in Paris. The news of the Baron's death caused a deep depression among financiers generally. It was said that his death would probably materially influence the exchange rate in the neighborhood of from 250 to 300 and these men would have to be taken across and back every working day. The expense of doing this would have to be borne by the men for whom Baron Alphonse was perfectly willing to make any advantageous arrangements he can to have this done cheaply and promptly. He insists that the expense, whatever it amounts to, should be borne by the men. Just what this will be is hard to say, and it is conceivable that if the men should row themselves over it would cost them nothing, but even with adequate arrangements for taking them over with tugboat and scow, it is certain that the expense would be very much less per man than the reduction. In handling the appended statement to the Herald, Mr. Stockett explains that he does as that all the men may be fully informed of where they are, and be able to act intelligently. His statements, he says, are the final results of weeks of careful investigation of conditions and consultation between himself and Mr. Howard, and represent their last word with relation to the matter, and it either means, so far as they are concerned, acceptance of either one of the proposals or a close down of the shaft.

The statements of the president and manager of the Western Fuel Company are printed herewith exactly as they have been handed in to this office.

President's Statement.

In so far as the Western Fuel Company is concerned, the question before it is one of pure business, and one colored by politics, revenge or any other issue.

Under the law as it stands to-day, the actual working time is 81 per cent. of the 8-hour day. Under the amendment, Mr. Stockett will be reduced to 74 per cent. Twenty-five per cent. of the mine product is small coal, and is disposed of at a loss. Thirty per cent. of the lump coal sent to San Francisco becomes converted into screenings when the coal is cleaned for domestic purposes, and the screenings are sold with difficulty and always below cost. Oil fuel has reduced the annual coal importations in California from 2,000,000 to 1,000,000 tons, and this is compensated for by the mine in Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Australia and Japan. Australian coal, equal in quality to that from Vancouver Island, can be laid down at San Francisco at as low a cost.

The recent tendency of prices under keen competition in our large market has been downward to such an extent that thus far this year the company's mine has not been run at profit. When No. 1 shaft resumed operations after the fire last year, it was made the fixed policy of the company not to tamper with the wage rates nor with other questions that would tend to disturb the relations between the company and the men, nor to permit any outside tampering with these relations. So long as the conduct of the business did not produce loss, we were content to operate the mines, but when the new law was enacted, with the knowledge beforehand that it was aimed at, and could only seriously affect the No. 1 shaft at Nanaimo, a law that was

THE SITUATION AT NANAIMO MINE

Officials of Company Explain Position With Regard to Working of Eight-Hour Law--Proposals to Employees.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

The Nanaimo Herald to-day says: In view of the most unsettled condition of affairs with regard to No. 1 mine in connection with the enforcement of the eight-hour day on June 1st, the Herald has been requested to publish the appended statements of President Howard and Manager Stockett, giving their side of the question, and does so, not only as a matter of news in which every individual in Nanaimo is deeply interested, but also in the hope that full public discussion may aid in arriving at a solution of the difficulty.

As will be found below, both Mr. Howard and Mr. Stockett make very plain straightforward statements regarding the condition of work in the mine, and why it will be necessary to rearrange these conditions if the company is to be protected from the eventuality of closing down the mine. As for the proposals of the company made to the men, it seems clear that the proposal for a horizontal reduction of all the men's wages is a far more serious handicap against the men than their alternative of going down at Protection shaft. The reduction, which the company has figured out will be necessary to compensate them for the loss of time under the new law, amounts practically to 10 per cent., which is a serious reduction indeed, and would probably be regarded as utterly impossible by the men. The other proposal to utilize Protection shaft to lower the men is perhaps not so serious as it does not involve any direct reduction in wages. The only serious question that can arise with relation to this is one of transportation. The number of men that would go down Protection shaft in such an effort would probably be in the neighborhood of from 250 to 300 and these men would have to be taken across and back every working day. The expense of doing this would have to be borne by the men for whom Mr. Stockett says he is perfectly willing to make any advantageous arrangements he can to have this done cheaply and promptly. He insists that the expense, whatever it amounts to, should be borne by the men. Just what this will be is hard to say, and it is conceivable that if the men should row themselves over it would cost them nothing, but even with adequate arrangements for taking them over with tugboat and scow, it is certain that the expense would be very much less per man than the reduction. In handling the appended statement to the Herald, Mr. Stockett explains that he does as that all the men may be fully informed of where they are, and be able to act intelligently. His statements, he says, are the final results of weeks of careful investigation of conditions and consultation between himself and Mr. Howard, and represent their last word with relation to the matter, and it either means, so far as they are concerned, acceptance of either one of the proposals or a close down of the shaft.

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The recent tendency of prices under keen competition in our large market has been downward to such an extent that thus far this year the company's mine has not been run at profit. When No. 1 shaft resumed operations after the fire last year, it was made the fixed policy of the company not to tamper with the wage rates nor with other questions that would tend to disturb the relations between the company and the men, nor to permit any outside tampering with these relations. So long as the conduct of the business did not produce loss, we were content to operate the mines, but when the new law was enacted, with the knowledge beforehand that it was aimed at, and could only seriously affect the No. 1 shaft at Nanaimo, a law that was

passed as a political expediency for the preservation of personal and party power; a law that in the study and analysis of its working effect will be found detrimental to the workings; a law that would increase the cost of production regardless of the market conditions which it could neither reach nor control and thus wipe out the narrow margin existing profit, after the most careful computations the conclusion is mathematically determined that obedience to the law means the closing of No. 1 shaft until conditions arise that are more favorable for its operation.

The conditions we are facing were forced upon the company in spite of its timely protest, and with an utter disregard of the predicted results which the new law would impose upon the mining industry at Nanaimo.

The closing of the mine is not in fulfillment of a threat, because the interests of the company are too important, and the welfare of its employees and their dependancies is too sacred to admit of any but grave reasons for a serious step; but this law, conceived in wrong and born in ignorance, has temporarily, at least, paralyzed the business, and will ultimately cut off the monthly payment of \$50,000 to \$60,000 in wages.

Manager's Statement.

President Howard came north early in the month to discuss the situation with the local management and to verify statements as to the effect the amendment would have on the mine. The statements which were verified showed clearly that the mine could not be operated except as such a loss that neither he nor the board of directors felt justified in continuing. Instructions were then issued to take out the pumps, stop the fans and close down the mine until such time as the amendment was modified or repealed. At the solicitation of the local management President Howard consented (in view of the disastrous effect the closing down of the mine would have upon the town and community) to the submission to the men of the only two alternative measures that appear feasible in order to comply with the letter of the law and prevent the closing of the mine, viz., the utilization of the Protection shaft for the lowering and raising of the men on the north side of the mine—or a horizontal reduction to compensate for the reduction in the working hours in the event that all the workmen preferred to enter the mine as at present through No. 1 shaft, with the understanding that at any time that the amendment might be modified or repealed, as it surely must be, the reduction would be restored.

Meeting To-night.

Nanaimo, May 27.—There are fears that to-night's mass meeting of miners to discuss the Western Fuel Company's ultimatum may result in a strike, as many of the men express themselves as opposed to accepting terms, as they claim that the company is exaggerating the inconvenience of the new amendment to the law. There is a great deal of anxiety among business men as to the outcome to-night.

FATALITIES AT ROSSLAND.

Two Men Killed and Three Injured in the Mines.

Rossland, May 24.—Two men killed and three injured in the list of casualties in the Rossland mines during the past 24 hours. The first fatality occurred about midnight last night, when Hugh Bennett, a young miner employed in the Josie, was coming off shift. By some unknown means he slipped from the ladder and fell into a timber-chute, a distance of 50 feet. He died while being taken to the surface. There were no external injuries, and the physicians said the cause of death was a ruptured blood-vessel. Bennett was 21 years old, a native of Ireland, and had only been in the camp a little over a year.

At 1 o'clock to-day, Levi Handeck, a shoemaker in the Le Roi, had the roof cave in on him while he was working on the 700-foot level. His left leg was so badly shattered that it had to be amputated above the knee.

At 4:30 p.m. this afternoon on the 1,000-foot level of the Le Roi, Steve Welch was picking behind the machine when the sharp point of the implement struck a stick of dynamite that had not exploded when the previous round of holes had been fired. The dynamite exploded, the impact of the implement, and the result was that Welch was instantly killed, his body being badly mangled. John Shingneski, a machine man, who was nearby, was barred a considerable distance by the explosion, and his leg broken, while Alexander McFarland, another machine man, who was a little further away, was severely cut about the head and neck. Welch was a native of Newfoundland, aged 18 years, and had lived with his father here for the past two years.

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